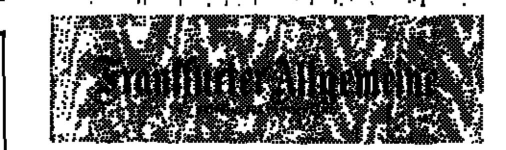
The German Tribune

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

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Moment of decision arrives in Belgrade



The Belgrade conference on Helsinki has reached the stage at which decisions must be made.

Since the Christmas recess it has grown increasingly apparent that the Soviet Union is keen not only to discourage criticism of its own behaviour, only to be expected, but also to clamp down on criticism of any kind.

Moscow would like to see no further mention of human rights — not even in a catalogue of principles adopted at Helsinki.

For weeks the neutral and non-aligned-states have been trying to make Moscow change its mind, to no avail. The neutrals have had no joy with their counter-draft.

So the conference has now reached the point at which participants must decide what to do about the procedural provision that the Belgrade gathering "will end with the approval of the final document and the stipulation of the time and place of the next, similar gathering."

No one country can be overruled, since decisions must be unanimous. An attempt could, of course, be made to sit it out, but the prospects are not bright. Sooner of later this would prove unnerving. What then?

The West und the neutrals must think first of the future of the Helsinki accords. The committees set up to monitor human rights in Eastern Europe need the accords as credentials.

Helsinki legitimates them in their dealings with their own regimes, so no cuts in or reinterpretation of the text of the 1975 accords can be permitted.

Helsinki must remain a standard of human rights in Europe. The West may not be able to raise it to the fore, but on no account must it either supersede or abandon it.

The West stands repeatedly accused of lacking an "ideology" with which to confront the Soviet Union. An ideology it may not have, but it does have an idea.

This idea is of the dignity and value of the individual, independent of other individuals, groups, classes, species of states.

The Soviet Union's behaviour in Belgrade is not clear-cut. Diplomats are sifting the evidence to decide whether or not Moscow's *niet* at the conference table is merely tactical.

Assuming it to be tactical, the Soviet aim would be to scale down the concessions it may have to make on human rights. If it is strategic, then the Soviet refusal definitely applies to allattempts to activate this part of the accords.

The Soviet Union would then be determined to avoid any repetition of the "mistake" of having permitted any mention of human rights and free flow of information in the Helsinki document.

Given the risks that human rights might entail from the Soviet viewpoint, Mr Brezhnev argued at one stage that Russia also stood a chance of influencing the West in the aftermath of Helsinki.

Were this no longer the case, a harder Soviet line at Belgrade might be taken as meaning changes in the influence wielded by individual Soviet leaders.

The Soviet objections at Belgrade seem to be strategic rather than tactical. But they are definitely put in forthright terms.

Moscow is even dispensing with prior consultation with its allies, which has so disappointed them that even the line-toeing GDR leaders seem upset.

The West could, if it wished, submit its own draft final document reflecting in a balanced manner the outcome of the Belgrade talks.

If this were to be rejected by the Soviet Union it would not only have shared the fate of the draft submitted by the neutral countries — the entire position would then be clear-cut.

The West would at least have maintained its ground, but the only outcome would be a proposal to limit the final document to a minimum, stating merely that talks had been held in 1977 and 1978 and a further session was to be convened in Madrid in 1980.

A final document as envisaged by the Soviet Union would be even less satisfactory. It would make no mention of human rights or the free flow of information, but include snippets agreed on in Belgrade.

It would itemise certain formulas on economic cooperation, provide for closer observation of military manoeuvres, mention the problem of migrant workers and deal with environmental conservation, peaceful arbitration of disagreements and cooperation in the Mediterranean.

This catalogue includes a number of issues on which individual Western, neutral and non-aligned countries are keen. A number of Eastern European countries will likewise be tempted to settle for as much as possible on which partial agreement has already been reached.

They may prefer to have accomplished a little rather than to make do with what would appear to be nothing at all. Practical proposals may also be seen as points at which political influence may be exerted to some effect — and rightly so.

Yet justified though these viewpoints may be, they do not ring fully true. Detente without human rights is not in the interests of the neutral and non-aligned countries of South-East Europe.

Human rights will determine the entire fate of detente, deciding whether Europe, neutrals included, is to have more security or less.

Were the Belgrade conference to prove a failure from the West's point of view, the briefest of agreed formulas would, relatively speaking, be the best inasmuch as it upheld the West's cause.

To do more than confirm formalities would be less than was included on the post-Helsinki agenda.

Günther Gillessen

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 15 February 1978)



(Cartoon: Pepsch Gottscheber/Hannoversche Allgemeine)

Soviet tactics arouse fears

Pressure of time is the weapon the West wielded in summer 1975 to win concessions from the Soviet Union on the final document at the CSCE — the Helsinki accords.

This time the West has no advantage. Three years ago Mr Brezhnev agreed to nearly everything to reach agreement at Helsinki. He now seems keen to end the Belgrade talks even with nothing to show.

Now it is the West which feels obliged to remind the East Bloc they have agreed to conclude Belgrade with a final document and a date and venue for the next meeting.

The Soviet delegation's tactics seem to support suspicions that Moscow would rather end the conference in disarray than accept a document it considers unsatisfactory.

This would be the case if the final document, to be published in all 35 countries at the CSCE, included concepts or phrases which might imply to the East Bloc an affirmation of the Helsinki human rights package.

The Soviet Union would frown on anything encouraging the human rights movements arising out of Helsinki.

Rather than provide dissidents with fresh arguments, Moscow would propably ditch detente and Helsinki. The Kremlin would certainly rather abandon its pet projects than consider modest Western demands over terminology.

This shows how deeply the desire for human rights has upset the East Bloc and how little they are prepared to concede. The West must not console itself with the ample mention that has been made of human rights in Belgrade. It cannot afford not to put the message across in black and white.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 16 February 1978)

IN THIS ISSUE

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Schmidt told: take off gloves to deal with Soviet Union

Klaus Mehnert, an expert on Soviet affairs, wonders whether Helmut Schmidt might not be better advised to adopt a more resolute approach in his dealings with the GDR and the Soviet Union.

Helmut Schmidt is not given to treading softly. But he knows, or has learnt, that outdoing others often does more harm than good.

It is a matter of getting the dosage right, of cutting one's coat according to the cloth available, bearing in mind circumstances and the feelings of the moment.

Opinion polls have shows again and again that what people want is a strong Chancellor. This was apparent from Herr Schmidt's stand on the Lufthansa jet hijacked to Mogadishu last October and the popularity he gained as a result.

In a number of other instances, however, the Chancellor has disappointed. I shall outline a number of cases I have in mind.

The Soviet Union is extremely important as far as this country is concerned. We must take care in our dealings with both Moscow and Mr Brezhnev.

But there are limits to everything. There comes a point at which caution turns into weakness. This country is not strong enough to be able to afford weakness in its dealings with the Soviet Union.

Women may be able to secure a man's attention, affection and even love by a show of weakness (grandma used to faint away at the appropriate moment), but countries merely have their ears boxed if they demonstrate weakness and turn the other cheek when insulted.

This country has lately had its ears boxed twice by Moscow. One was when Willy Brandt, who was due to confer with Mr Brezhnev on his way to Tokyo, was suddenly told that the meeting was cancelled.

The other occasion was when Helmut Schmidt, having invited Leonid Brezhnev to visit this country, was told that Mr Brezhnev was unable to come because of a virus infection. This did not, however, prevent him from going hunting shortly afterwards.

There are two possibilities. Either the Soviet leader was suffering from such a bad cold in January that he had to shelve all appointments in advance; or his infection was merely a pretext to avoid an invitation already accepted.

In either case only one response is appropriate: "Sorry about your cold, Mr Brezhnev. Get well soon."

Scant progress is likely at a summit meeting with the Soviet leader (apart, of course, from the routine comment that the encounter has proved "useful").

Should anything more significant come of the meeting (contrary to expectations, of course), such as progress on the Berlin Question, there will be time enough to tell the world the good news.

Moscow is known to regard this country and Japan as next in order of importance to the United States in the free world.

Were Bonn to show signs of weakness it would not only drop to third place, but plummet to tenth, being outranked by Britain, France, Canada and even countries such as Egypt.

A second instance in which the Soviet Union is involved is Mr Brezhnec's letter to several countries uttering threats should the neutrons bomb be manufactured.

We all know that the neutron bomb is a new and dreadful weapon of destruction. But it is no more dreadful (and probable less so) than the nuclear weapons the Soviet Union manufactures round the clock.

What Moscow objects to is not that the neutron bomb is so dreadful, but that America has it and the Soviet Union does not.

What is, more, the neutron bomb promises to be the best safeguard yet from the gigantic Soviet tank armies, thereby substantially lessening the Russian threat levelled at Western Europe.

So it is easy to understand why Mr Brezhnev is keen to jawbone the West into refraining from manufacturing the neutron bomb. What is incomprehensible is the West's lackadaisical attitude.

The Soviet leader's threatening letter arrived in Western capitals as the New Year dawned. Its arrival was kept quiet for three long weeks. A reply has yet to be penned.

Nato is, of course, a slow worker, consisting of a variety of countries with differing interests and temperaments. So it mights have been preferable for individual Nato countries to reply.

A reply would hardly have presented problems, say something along these lines:

"Dear Mr Brezhnev, it is clear from your letter that you are interested in the neutron bomb, which is undoubtedly a substantial advance in anti-tank weaponry.

"We would be only too happy to dispense with the costly manufacture and deployment of the new weapon if only you, as a marshal of the Soviet Union; would see to it that two out of three Soviet tanks stationed in Central Europe are scrapped.

"We feel sure that the Soviet people, like our own, would be delighted with any such solution. In eager anticipation of an affirmative reply at your earliest convenience I remain, yours, Helmut Schmidt."

Yet Bonn prefers to keep its views to itself, leaving it to the Opposition to call a spade a spade.

Or, to take a third example, this country's attitude towards Ethiopia. In recent weeks the Ethiopian authorities have been increasingly unfriendly towards Bonn, first expelling the military attaché, then occupying and closing down the German school.

The pretext was the closure of the boarding school section, down to two final-year students as a result of the emergency. Closure led to the dismissal of a number of Ethiopian employees.

In view of the protest ledged by the Ethiopian authorities, Bonn declared itself willing to withdraw the dismissal notices, yet the German school was still occupied by Ethiopian troops.

The German school was not identical with the boarding school, let it be added. The dismissal notices were a mere pretext for closing down the school, which enjoyed a high reputation.

Then came the expulsion of Johann Christian Lankes, Bonn's ambassador to Ethiopia and an experienced diplomat who had shown great personal courage in staving at his post.

And how does the Bonn government see fit to respond to the expulsion of its ambassador? Not at all!

Last but not least, let us remember Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski's mission to East Berlin. Herr Wischnewski flew to East Berlin in the wake of well-nigh hysterical reactions by the GDR government to the serialisation in *Der Spiegel*, the Hamburg news weekly, of a critical manifesto allegedly penned by dissident Party officials in the GDR.

It is much to Chancellor Schmidt's credit that he is trying to avoid breaking off ties with the GDR. It must come hard to a man of his forthright temperament.

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

But here too there are limits, and they are exceeded once Germans on both sides of the intra-German border gain the impression that Bonn is so weak and conciliatory that East Berlin leaders can resort to any effrontery in dealing with this country.

People in the Federal Republic, by and large well-disposed towards Chancellor Schmidt, realise there are issues over which the Chancellor has no control, such as espionage and bugging at the Defence Ministry.

Yet at a time when people sorely feel the need for a strong hand at the Chancellery the impression that Helmut Schmidt is anything but resolute could be dangerous for him.

Klaus Mehnert

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 11 February 1978)

Matthöffer's bold plan to stake Antarctic claim

Hans Matthöfer's fellow-members of the Bonn Cabinet were surprised last November when his only objection to the sale of a submarine to the Argentinian junta was that Bonn would do better to commission a research vessel for the Antarctic.

Herr Matthöfer argued as Minister of Research and Technology that this would accomplish two purposes; do the domestic shipbuilding industry good and boost scientific research.

The Cabinet decided nonetheless to approve the submarine sale, calling on Herr Matthöfer to draw up proposals should the situation occur again.

Just before transferring to the Ministry of Finance, Hans Matthöfer now reveals that his research vessel was not an only brainchild but a step towards a far more ambitious project.

He envisages this country as an Antarctic power with bases of its own before long, like the Americans, Russians and Japanese. Ice-going vessels will be joined by helicopters to scour the Antarctic mainland, a territory larger than the continental United States.

Herr Matthöfer does not have visions of this country as a great power. His sole concern is to ensure future supplies of raw materials.

Research and industry in this country have discovered, despite attempts to gloss over the fact by America and Russia, that the Antarctic boasts enormous deposits of petroleum, natural gas, uranium, iron, copper, nickel and other valuable mineral ores.

Oil reserves alone are estimated to be more substantial than Alaska's, and both America and Russia have for years conducted scientific research in the area.

The findings are strictly classified, which leads Hans Matthöfer to conclude that Antarctic holds many more pleasant surprises.

Antarctic research was strictly scientific until it was realised that the earth's reserves were finite. Prospectors have only scoured the continent for commodities since the early seventies.

It all began with a simple theory — that long ago the Antarctic formed the central section of Gondwanaland, the 'lost continent' that once linked South America, South Africa, Madagascar, India and Australia.

Commodity reserves in these parts were converted to fit the Antarctic land mass on the assumption that the raw materials beneath the Antarctic ice should be similar.

Experimental drilling has borne this out. The continental shelf off Mary Byrd Land contains enormous petroleum deposits. The East Antarctic boasts rich coal seams. The Pensacola mountains have iron ore and the Lassiter coast copper ore.

"The United States does seem to be playing down the Antarctic's commodity potential," Herr Matthöfer said in a letter to Helmut Schmidt. The Russians are not communicative either.

At present the Antarctic belongs to no-one. Chile and Argentina have territorial claims, America and Russia are themselves Antarctic powers without whose approval no polical changes can be undertaken.

Since 1959 there has been an Antarctic agreement between 13 countries which consider themselves custodians of the continent. Hans Matthöfer has urged Bonn to join the club.

He claims several powers are on the point of allotting rights of exploitation

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■ GOVERNMENT

The great terrorism debate: who wins if liberals lose?

The Bundestag passed the SPD-FDP coalition government's anti-terror laws by only one vote on 16 February. It is likely that five SPD MPs voted against the government's proposals. Before the debate only four left-wing SPD MPs said they would vote against the government. Here Marion Gräfin Dönhoff, publisher of *Die Zeit*, argues the pros and cons of tighter laws against terrorism.

After the kidnapping of Hans Martin Schleyer and the hijacking of the Lufthansa jet *Landshut* five months ago, emotions ran high and there was unanimous agreement amongst government, opposition and citizens that everything had to be done to prevent further acts of terrorism. If necessary, the laws would have to be tightened up.

The debates on the anti-terror laws have shown that there is little of this unanimity left. The government is caught between two camps: those in its own ranks who believe the new laws go too far, and the opposition which considers them "inadequate and wretched."

Is it true to say that the government has done nothing or too little to combat terrorism?

The following laws have been passed in the last three years:

— the law outlawing the formation of terrorist associations;

— the law allowing surveillance of correspondence between defence counsel and accused;

— the law enabling the judge to exclude defence lawyers from a trial under certain circumstances. Trials can be conducted in the defendant's absence if he is obstructive or goes on hunger strike;

— the law on remand has been tightened up.

— the controversial contact ban law, preventing contact among suspected terrorists or between suspected terrorists and their lawyers in specific circumstances.

All these laws were necessary to combat the new phenomenon of terrorism. But do we really need any new anti-terror laws?

The first point is that no corpus of laws, however subtle, will prevent new acts of terror. Only the totalitarian state with its special laws, secret police and prisons for political opponents can stamp out terrorism.

The essence of a state based on the rule of law is that even those suspected of breaking the law enjoy its protection. The new anti-terror law makes it easier to exclude defence lawyers from terrorist trials. Understandably, there are those who consider this a step in the wrong direction.

The new law provides that entire buildings and not just specific flats may be searched in the hunt for terrorists. In such a case a search permit must be granted by a judge or, to avoid undue delay, by the state prosecutor.

The police cannot conduct such a search on their own initiative. This seems unexceptionable when we remember that one of Herr Schleyer's shirt studs was found in the underground garage of a large block of flats in Cologne.

On the other hand the example of the Militärischer Abschirmdienst (Military Counter-Espionage) is not encouraging. When special laws are passed and special organisations set up, we must reckon with them being misused. We ought not to have any illusions on this score.

The opposition is calling for anti-terrorist legislation as precise and meticulous as terrorist organisation itself. If the opposition got its way, our whole way of life would change. The state based on the rule of law, which we are trying to defend, would have ceased to exist.

If we go to the other extreme and do little or nothing, our citizens will accuse us of being weak and indecisive and call out in desperation for a strong man to avert the danger. We need only recall the readers' letters in the newspapers when the Schleyer crisis was at its height to see how real this danger is.

One sometimes wonders if the widespread sprouting of right wing extremist organisations recently has anything to do with this kind of thinking.

Taking these points into consideration, it was understandable that the government felt obliged to introduce the new law. It is also a good thing that critics in its own ranks forced it to make certain changes.

Liberals and Social Democrats believe that the individual and his position in the state based on the rule of law is the prime consideration. Conservatives tend to attach more importance to the state — that is, the community and the law and order which holds it together.

Albrecht Dregger, chairman of the CDU in Hesse, put this point of view clearly when he said: "In those weeks (the time of the Schleyer kidnapping) we realised that the Germans are a people and not just an affluent society, that the Federal Republic of Germany is a state and not just a giant service industry."

Both points of view have validity, but they also have specific weaknesses and specific dangers. The conservatives are inclined to attach such immense importance to the status quo, its institutions and symbols, that they are finally prepared to sacrifice the rights of the individual for the sake of this *sunmum bonum.*

Liberals and social democrats concentrate too much on the liberty and dignity of the individual and tend to forget that every community needs a fixed system of values.

The contrast between the conservative and liberal views of society is familiar enough. The question is: which of them is likely to produce a more effective means of combating terrorism?

There can be no doubt that the terrorists' chief aim is to provoke the state into more repression and thus to expose what they call its "fascist face beneath the democratic mask". From their point of view, every tightening of laws brings them a step nearer this goal and confirms the success of their actions.

Terrorism is many-faceted and at the moment we still do not know enough to work out what is the best strategy. Terrorism here has special characteristics. Our terrorists are not separatists like the IRA in Ireland or ETA in the Basque country.

They are not nationalist movements like the FLN in Algeria or the PLO in the Middle East. Nor can they be compared to the right and left wing extremists in Italy. Our terrorists' target is the very heart of the state. They are determined and their aim is sure, ultimately to destroy the system. It this typically German?

The answer is not as simple as it seems. Certain associations of ideas spring to mind: the German yearning for the truth, the One Right Way, the absolute, uncompromising dedication to this truth, the cult of personal commitment.

Then there is the element of irrationalism to be found throughout German History — in Romanticism, in German Idealism, in the Youth Movement.

If the terrorists are in part heirs of

Continued on page 6

The new laws:

Checkpoints can in future be set up on public roads and places when the police are searching for terrorists. Permission for this can in principle only be granted by a judge. However, if this would cause serious delay, a permit can be granted by the state prosecutor or one of his agents, that is, the police.

The police can ask any citizen for evidence of his identity. Those who produce proof of identity and are not considered suspects can then go. They cannot be searched without giving express permission. Photographs or fingerprints are not allowed to be taken unless those stopped are suspects.

Those who cannot prove their identity, even if not suspects, can be taken to a police station and held until their identity has been established. They must be told why they are being detained and are only to be held for as long as is absolutely necessary. They must be released after 12 hours.

Anyone held in this way has a right to tell a friend or relative. Documents used to establish the identity of non-suspects have to be destroyed once identity has been established.

Suspects may be searched and their fingerprints and photographs taken. If identification takes more than 12 hours, the suspect can be arrested. (This is already possible under present law). Non-suspects can also be held until their identity is established "if this is necessary for the investigation" — if, for example, they are important witnesses. These non-suspects can refuse to have their fingerprints and photographs taken.

The police now have the right to search whole buildings and not just specific flats. This may only be done when there is a "strong suspicion" that a terrorist is hiding in the building. According to the present law, the police only have the right to search specific flats.

If the police have permission to search a building in connection with terrorist offences, they are not allowed to confiscate objects which would help them investigate other offences. In other words, the permit does not give them the same rights as an ordinary search warrant granted by a judge. Suitcases and drawers cannot be searched — only places where a person could hide.

A defence lawyer can, in future, be excluded from the trials of suspected terrorists if there are "reasonable grounds to believe that he is cooperating in a criminal manner with the suspect." Now there have to be "strong grounds" for such suspicion before a lawyer can be excluded. In future, lawyers will only be able to talk to suspected or convicted terrorists through a glass screen in the prison.

dpa

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 17 February 1978)

Rights slate is clean — Vogel

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Minister of Justice Vogel recently signed the Bonn government's report to the United Nations on human rights in the Federal Republic of Germany, one of the government's obligations as a signatory to the International Pact on Civil and Political Rights.

Herr Vogel said that the government saw human rights in this country as guaranteed beyond the minimum requirements of the pact. It had no need to fear comparison on its human rights record with other states in East and West.

Conveniently for the government, the report coincides with the Russell Tribunal's forthcoming investigation of alleged violations of human rights in this country. Herr Vogel was clearly referring to the tribunal when he said the report would counter rumours and defamatory statements now circulating.

Several thousand copies of the report are being printed. The Bundespresseamt (Federal Press and Information Office) has also commissioned translations into English, French and Spanish.

Herr Vogel stressed that the Federal Constitutional Court controlled decisions by parliament and the courts. Any citizen could appeal to the Constitutional Court — a right which existed in few countries.

The Federal Republic had signed the European Convention on Human Rights before signing the International Pact, Herr Vogel said. He pointed out with satisfaction that none of the accusations against the Federal Republic in Strasbourg had been substantiated.

Complaints to the court made by terrorists had been rejected or ruled out of order. The main case remaining was that brought by the Stammheim prisoners before their suicides. This case would be considered despite the plaintiffs' deaths. Not all states granted their citizens individual right of complaint to the Strasbourg court, he said.

At the United Nations the Federal Republic has up to now only agreed to submit to complaints by members states. Not all of the 40 signatories have done this.

This means that this country need only answer to the committee if another signatory state brings a complaint against it. It has not granted its citizens an individual right of appeal to the UN because this would mean demarcation disputes on human rights between the UN and the European Convention.

Herr Vogel said he saw no contradiction between the new anti-terror act and the pact's stipulations. The same applied to the "Extremists' Decree", for which foreign correspondents in Germany were particularly interested to hear his justification. He referred his questioners to Article 33 of the Basic law, which stipulates that special qualifications are required of those wishing to work in the public service.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 15 February 1978)

■ COMMUNITY

Japan chafes but Nine want talks

DIE ZEIT

Japan's Foreign Trade Minister Nobuhiko Ushiba was clearly irritated on his return fron talks with the EEC Commission in Brussels.

He questioned the Commission's authority to negotiate.

"We have to deal with the Commission because that body is in charge of economic questions in the EEC. But without a mandate from the member nations the Commission's hands are tied, and it is in no position to issue directives to the members... a most unusual situation... and I have to negotiate with such a body," said Mr Ushiba.

But Nobuhiko Ushiba will have to come to terms with the European Community's style of negotiation. The EEC Commission has only just received a new mandate to conduct trade talks with Japan.

Pending the next summit conference of EEC heads of government in Copenhagen, the Commission has been charged by the Nine with obtaining substantial concessions from Europe's Far Eastern trading partner.

Tokyo has already been handed a list of demands which far exceeds the items agreed upon last January following a long tug-of-war between the United States and Japan.

Negotiations have been in on in Tokyo since 13 February.

Japan's surplus in its trade with the Nine amounted to 5,000 million US dollars last year — about five-fold the surplus in 1972.

The constantly growing flood of goods from the Far East involves a relatively small range of products where the Japanese have a clear cost advantage, among them shipbuilding, steel, roller bearings, electronics and automobiles.

West European and American exporters, on the other hand, find it very hard to gain a foothold in the obstacle-strewn Japanese market. Not only are Japan's tariffs, which average about 10.8 per cent, higher than those of the Community (about 7 per cent), but numerous non-tariff barriers also hamper exports. The most important are safety tests for motor vehicles and the controls which Japan's major exporters exercise over imports.

The EEC has repeatedly called on Japan to contribute towards a more balanced trade by desisting from flooding the European market and by opening up its own.

An appeal by the EEC heads of government in December 1976 went unheeded. Even the undertaking by Japan's Prime Minister Fukuda, at the London Economic Summit in May 1977, in which he promised a 7 per cent growth rate in Japan, failed to materialise.

Equally unavailing were top-level talks in Tokyo and Brussels.

Japan's comment that the agreement reached between Tokyo and Washington — including early tariff reductions to be taken into account at the Gatt Round and a growth target of 7.5 per cent for 1978 — would contribute towards reducing the Community's trade deficit with Japan met with scepticism from the EEC.

Seconded by the Council of Ministers, the EEC Commission decided that the following extra measures were called for:

- Japan is to take seriously its role as one of the growth locomotives of the world economy;
- The Japanese market is to be opened up further for shoes, confectionary, wine and whisky from Europe;
- Japan is to simplify safety test procedures for diesel engines and chemical and pharmaceutical products from abroad.

Bonn was instrumental in having deleted the demand for a revaluation of the yen as a means of reducing trade surpluses. But a reference to exchange rate problems on which the British delegation insisted was included in the agenda for negotiations.

For Germany, which bears the brunt of Japan's trade surplus with the EEC, it is obvious that Japanese concessions will be ineffectual unless Europe's industry pays more attention to the Japanese market.

Hans-Hagen Bremer

(Die Zeit, 17. February 1978)

EEC headquarters still a three-ring circus

Three top performers have come into the arena of the itinerant three-ring circus commonly known as Europe.

The dispute about the siting of EEC institutions has developed into a delicate business for the heads of government of Belgium, Luxembourg and France, Leo Tindemans, Gaston Thom and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

They are trying to resolve the tug-of-war between the present three provisional centres of the Community, Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg. Members of the European Parliament act as supporting cast. At this stage it seems that there is no winner in the offing; in other words, no place that will provide a permanent seat for all EEC institutions.

There is, however, a most definite loser: the taxpayer.

Rents for the numerous EEC buildings in Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg are rising inexorably. Last year they amounted to 102 million deutschmarks, plus fringe costs such as insurance premiums, utilities and maintenance, making a grand total of DM173 million.

This is what the taxpayer has to fork out for the offices of some 10,000 staff members of the EEC Commission, 1,500 of the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament, and the 275 employees of the European Court, the Community's highest tribunal.

They all work for the good of 258 million EEC citizens, on whose behalf the Ministers make policy decisions, Commissioners draft legislation and a thin stratum of parliamentarians exercises control over both. Added to these costs are the travel expenses of Ministers, parliamentarians and general staff.

The situation is grotesque. The EEC Commission and the Council of Ministers have their headquarters in Brussels. But the Ministers of the nine members, the 13 Commissioners and numerous Eurocrats are constantly travelling to Luxembourg because in 1965 that country's government convinced the others that the Ministerial Council should meet there every April, June and October.

Luxembourg is also the seat of the Secretariat-General of the European Parliament, and half of the 12 parliamentary sessions every year take place in that city, while the remaining six are held in Strasbourg.

Strasbourg became the seat of the European Parliament in 1958 — a pure coincidence because that city has housed the Council of Europe (to which 19 democratic states of the Old World belong) since its inception in 1949.

The favourite conference city of parliamentary committees, on the other hand, is Brussels. But London, Dublin, Paris Rome and Copenhagen also frequently serve as venues for conferences of committees of the European Parliament.

Attempts to find a permanent residence for this travelling circus have failed repeatedly in the past 18 years. Commonsense stands no chance in the rivalry between Luxembourg, Brussels and Strasbourg. The 1965 Treaty on the Integration of the Three Communities (Montanunion, Euratom and EEC) mentions all three of these cities — and in that sequence — as provisional headquarters.

The idea of making Brussels, with its central position and excellent transport links, the permanent EEC centre (which would also house the European Parliament) has met with fierce resistance from Luxembourg and Paris. Politicians of those countries want to keep the present arrangement to secure the income of the local hotel and catering trade.

Supported by the Paris Government, Strasbourg's Mayor Pierre Pflimlin has announced that the Europa Palace, which opened in early 1977 and which houses the European Parliament as a sub-tenant of the Council of Europe, could be enlarged.

This will become necessary due to the direct elections to the European Parliament, probably in 1979, when that body will have 410 instead of the present 198 seats.

M. Pflimlin has already made it clear that, should a shortage of office space arise, he would build an entire "Europe borough" in the city, which could also attract the Secretariat-General of the Parliament, now in Luxembourg.

But Luxembourg's Prime Minister Gaston Thorn has not been idle either. The has already presented plans for when the Community will be enlarged by the three membership applicants Greece, Portugal and Spain.

Apart from the buildings in the Kirchberg Europa Centre, with its plenary hall for 200 deputies, the offices of the Commission and (in a 22-storey office) the Community's Statistical Office, Gaston Thorn intends to build a plenary hall for 600 deputies. And as a crowning glory, he envisages a [illegible]-storey office building.

Meanwhile, more and more Euro-MPs are opting for Brussels, which would require more space due to the number of members the European Parliament will have in future. Among buildings under consideration in Brussels is a new and immediately [illegible] one belonging to a bank.

In any event, rental costs are bound to go up — in Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg.

The millions which the EEC has spent over the years would [illegible] paid for the Community's [illegible] own headquarters.

Hans [illegible]

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, [illegible])

Matthöfer's Antarctic plan

Continued from page 2

before the Antarctic's commodity riches are common knowledge.

For this country it is not just a matter of raw materials but also of modern technology and technological blueprints. The technology needed to exploit Antarctic oil and gas will probably not be available until the late eighties, while ores may not be mined until 2000.

Bonn could, of course, join the Antarctic club as an ordinary member. It would then be a mere onlooker with no right to the spoils. Hans Matthöfer recommends joining the agreement as a consultative member.

Existing members require newcomers to operate a research base as a token of scientific earnest. Bonn would have to develop a commodity-orientated research programme for the Antarctic, set up a scientific team and establish a land-based research unit with ice-going vessels, transport aircraft and helicopters as a link with the outside world.

There is still time to make the bid. Territorial claims are still disputed and have been frozen until 1995. The Russians are playing for time to catch up with the Americans in technological development. As a result no decisions on exploitation have been taken.

The Antarctic club, an exclusive fraternity, appears to the outside world to be a close-knit body. This spring it proposes to draft a fishing agreement to which no other countries will be party. An agreement on commodities is to be reached in the next two years.

Fish stocks alone are gigantic. Ecologists reckon that between 50 and 100 millions tons could be fished a year without depleting reserves. The world's current catch is roughly 60 million tons.

This country already has a foot in the Antarctic because of its research into the krill, a protein-rich Antarctic shrimp that used to be the staple diet of the whale.

Were Bonn to follow up Herr Matthöfer's proposal and join the club (better late than never), an initial investment of 90 million deutschmarks would be needed to set up a research station and build a research vessel.

Outgoing Research Minister Hans Matthöfer may find he has a powerful new ally in the Cabinet: Finance Minister Hans Matthöfer.

Udo Bergdoll

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 13 February 1978)

■ ECONOMY

US still reluctant to accept Bonn's economic policies

All attempts by Bonn to make the American Administration understand its economic policy have been to no avail.

Economic Affairs Minister Lambsdorff, who has only just returned from the United States, was again told that we must build up more steam in our economic locomotive in order to accelerate the world econony.

The same advice was given at the beginning of this year by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

All this demonstrates that the much-vaunted international coordination of economic policy is still pure theory.

The dollar policy of the Carter Administration is anything but a contribution towards livening-up international trade; for the German economy it acts as a brake.

The dramatic increase in the price of our export goods due to the devaluation of the dollar has not yet become fully effective. Washington reacted to Bonn's concern by announcing that it would intervene on foreign exchange markets to present excessive fluctuations in the dollar exchange rate.

But this has not induced the American Government to prevent a further gradual erosion of its currency.

It is generally accepted that the dollar is undervalued. The contention that market forces would of their own accord balance out the dollar exchange rate in keeping with its actual buying power is pure theory — especially where that currency is concerned.

The Bonn Government has made it clear that it is unwilling to go beyond its present economic booster measures and administer further shots in the arm which could start the inflation spiral again.

We should be glad to have markedly reduced our inflation rate. And there is reason to believe that, despite the increase of VAT, this year's inflation rate will drop still further. It is quite conceivable that the cost of living index will rise by a mere 3 per cent over 1977.

This should be taken into account in the collective bargaining now in progress —especially since the trade unions have always used the cost of living index as a trump card.

In the long run it will prove impossible to continue a wage policy not based on economic commonsense. Although wage costs in 1977 again rose at a higher rate than production per man-hour — despite all efforts at streamlining and automation — and manufacturers lowered their prices in the course of the year.

This was done at the expense of profits and is the direct result of fierce competition and unused production capacities, plus import competition resulting from drastic changes in foreign exchange rates. It is no coincidence that the excessive number of bankruptcies failed to diminish last year.

Profits in 1977 lagged conspicuously behind expectations and the target set by Bonn in its annual economic report at the beginning of 1977.

The devaluation of the dollar and the marked drop in the exchange rate for the French franc will lead to a further deterioration of profits in this country.

But this is only half the truth. The consequence of the American dollar policy will be that the German economic locomotive on which so many hopes are pinned will lose even more steam.

The fiscal policy of the government (federal, state and municipal), restrictive last year and with a detrimental effect on the economy, is now more growth-oriented.

Interest rates have been reduced to rock-bottom, and the sacrifices expected of the small saver whose capital has been eroded are virtually intolerable. The present bank rate of 2.5 per cent is the lowest in 28 years.

That such a policy of ample and cheap money has done relatively little to stimulate investments is partly because high production costs have diminished the yield on capital and have made the Federal Republic of Germany unattractive for investment in new production plants.

It is remarkable that there has for some months been a trend towards stepped-up investments despite the handicaps. Figures on orders in industry last December show — as in the previous months — that it was primarily domestic demand for capital goods which has increased.

The automobile industry is faced with an out-and-out investment boom. Low interest rates on mortgages, relatively stable construction costs, additional funds for regional government programmes and the reintroduction of degressive depreciation for buildings have meanwhile created favourable conditions for a gradual recovery of our ailing construction industry.

The January figures show that increased turnover tax has had no effect on consumer prices. In view of the diminished inclination to save and a growing willingness to spend, it is unlikely that the growth rate in the consumer goods sector will lag behind last year. It was feared at first that the non-increase of pensions and a smaller than expected volume of additional buying power released by maturing savings contracts would have a detrimental effect.

Turnover in the retail trade increased by 2 per cent (in real terms) in 1977, and the retailers expect a further increase of between 2 and 2.5 per cent this year.

What we need to reduce our unemployment is not more consumer demand but more orders for capital goods. The utilisation of production capacities in the consumer goods industry has largely returned to normal. The major bugbear for unemployment is the capital goods industry, which carries much more weight than the consumer goods sector.

In any event, there are limits to domestic demand for capital goods, this being a branch of industry which heavily depends on exports.

It is time for the Federal Government to seize the initiative in that sector. Since there is no sign of international coordination, Bonn should use the possibilities it has at its disposal. We are almost the only country which provides thousands of millions of development aid marks without making the credits contingent upon buying goods from the Federal Republic.

Our exports to the Third World now provide employment for about 800,000 workers. Stepped up aid for the developing countries (excluding the oil production nations) would stimulate demand and thus benefit employment.

All told, we have spent more than DM 40,000 million on economic booster measures without achieving the objective because these funds were primarily used to finance consumption.

If Bonn were to make its development aid depend upon purchases, thus doing what the other industrialised nations are doing, a mere 15,000 million deutschmarks could secure 200,000 additional jobs. And this would mean a great deal — in fact it would amount to more than the labour force at our disposal.

The actual number of open positions is considerably greater than official statistics show. In fact, large segments of industry already suffer from a considerable shortage of labour.

Such a strategy of providing jobs through development aid would have to go hand in hand with a more consistent and effective training and retraining programme for labour.

Walter Slotosch

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 11 February 1978)

Cordial moment in the Bonn talks between the governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States on international economic policies. From left: Bonn Economic Affairs Minister Otto Graf Lambsdorff, then Finance Minister Hans Apel (now Defence), US Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, US Treasury Under-Secretary Harold Solomon and Research Minister Hans Matthöfer (now Finance Minister). (Photo: Wolf P. Prange)

Blumenthal told: 'growth rate is ambitious'

Speaking to US Secretary of the Treasury Michael Blumenthal, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt called Bonn's economic policy "commonsense, efficient and middle-of-the-road."

The growth target of 3.5 per cent, he said, was an "ambitious goal."

He added that 3.5 per cent as an annual average meant that, in view of the low growth rate at the beginning of the year, we would have to achieve 4.5 to 5 per cent in the autumn and winter, which is very high. It would be unrealistic to aim at a higher figure.

The Chancellor used these arguments to counter Mr Blumenthal's call for additional booster measures by the Federal Republic of Germany.

According to Government spokesman Armin Grünewald, Mr Blumenthal did not confront Herr Schmidt with concrete ideas, but simply advocated a higher growth rate in general.

Herr Grünewald's impression was that the differences of opinion were smaller than generally assumed.

The government spokesman rejected speculations that the economic summit planned for the coming summer in Bonn could be cancelled due to German-American differences.

All heads of state and government have already agreed to attend the summit, tentatively due to be held from 14 to 16 July.

Mr Blumenthal reiterated to Herr Schmidt the recent American undertaking to stabilise the dollar. According to him, Washington is interested in a strong dollar.

Both parties agreed on the need to conserve energy. But Bonn has meanwhile become doubtful whether President Carter can get his energy saving programme passed by Congress.

Heinz Murmann

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 15 February 1978)

Busy round of money talks

There is feverish activity behind the scenes in economic and monetary policy-making circles. One conference follows another.

On 10 February the finance ministers and central bank heads of the five Snake members met in Copenhagen; on 12 February a summit of five major industrialised nations was held in Paris; on the 13th US Secretary of the Treasury Michael Blumenthal and his German opposite number met in Bonn; and the 13th and 14th saw a meeting at the Bank for International Settlements in Basle of central bank heads.

Little about these conferences has leaked out. Why are they all so tight-lipped, it is asked? Are they preparing far-reaching decisions in the monetary and economic sectors, or are the differences of opinion so great and the results of their talks so meagre that they have nothing to say?

The controversies are not new, and it is unlikely that they will soon be resolved. The world-wide economic recession and unemployment are no doubt the main topics of discussion — and this is unlikely to change soon.

Sooner or later, the United States will probably realise that the economy cannot be set in motion by massive injec-

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■ ECONOMIC TRENDS

How economy forecasters play the numbers game

Helmut Schmidt, a trained economist, has been blunt about the latest economic forecasts put forward by the economic research institutes: "These gentlemen have been mistaken many a time before, and we should not let them sway us."

This was last autumn, when the pundits prophesied that our economic growth was unlikely to exceed 3 per cent this year.

The Chancellor's gruff comment was not unwarranted. In the autumn of 1976, the forecasters predicted a 5.5 per cent growth in real terms for 1977. Only *Rheinisch-Westfälisches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung* (Rhineland-Westphalian Institute for Economic Research, RWI), in Essen had a more cautious estimate of between 3 and 4 per cent and was promptly accused of defeatism.

In the end, however, RWI emerged as the one-eyed king in the realm of the blind. The actual growth rate for 1977 was 2.4 per cent.

This failure by the forecasters sorely tried the public's faith in its pundits.

They have become used to the ritual of the autumn forecasts by the five independent institutes (apart from RWI, the German Institute for Economic Research, DIW, Berlin; Munich's Ifo Institute; the Kiel Institute for World Economy, Ifw; and Hamburg's World Economy Archives, HWWA) followed shortly by the report on overall economic development by the Council of Economic Experts, then the annual report of the Federal Government, plus a forecast for the current year by the five institutes in the spring.

Economic stargazing presupposes familiarity with the past. Economic processes are reflected in numerous official statistics. These figures enable the experts to find regularities and to calculate their interdependence. Forecasts are essentially a projection of regularities.

Statistics show, for instance, that German exports have always grown at a greater rate than world trade in general. Given a forecast for world trade, it is relatively easy to predict the development of our exporte.

But the rising value of the deutschmark in relation to the dollar could well put the brakes on our exports and thus render the old rule obsolete.

Says Horst Seidler, department head of DIW: "Our future performance will depend on the extent to which we can project the past to the future."

The economic researcher is much less able to rely on the computer than is generally assumed. The computer is rendered ineffectual as soon as the economy stops abiding by rules.

Although research institutes experiment with complicated econometric computer models, when it comes to the crunch they rely much more on handed-down methods, or "hand-knitting" as the director of RWI calls it.

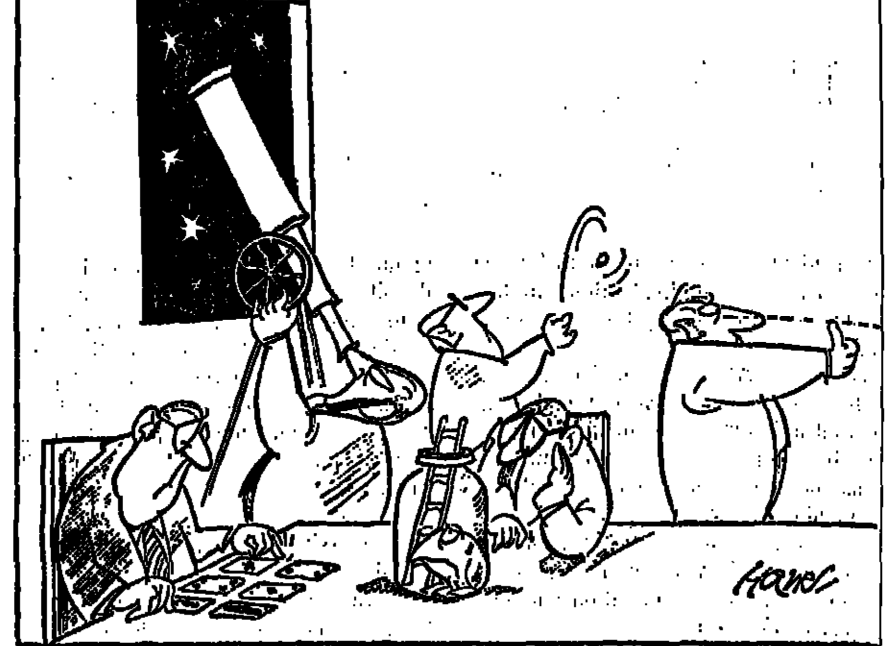
This method consists of evolving a specific set of figures for the individual branches of business. The various institutes have a widely differing number of staff members for this purpose, ranging from 7 at RWI to 25 at DIW.

The experts keep watching the development in their specialised sectors. Their experience and their assessment of the overall picture serve as a basis for forecasts of the anticipated GNP.

The individual elements of the calculation guarantee what the researchers call consistency. The GNP can be viewed from three different perspectives: its origins, its distribution and its utilisation.

Each of these aspects consists of a number of parts, although the final sum must remain the same in the end.

An economy cannot distribute more than it has achieved. In a succession of steps the experts keep correcting their



(Cartoon: Walter Hanel/Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger)

individual figures until they arrive at a feasible sum total, essentially the concentrate of the speculations of numerous specialists.

The difficulties arise when it comes to projecting official statistics. A forecast of the development of world trade, for instance, requires accurate forecasts for the major industrialised nations, and forecasts for the Federal Republic of Germany which can only be arrived at on the basis of those for other nations. In other words, forecasters chase their own tails.

It is relatively easy, on the other hand, to establish the volume of demand by the state by looking at the budget plans of Bonn and the federal states.

But how will private consumption develop? To find an answer the experts must not only estimate profits and wage increases but also the level of employment. And this in turn presupposes a knowledge about the economic growth in general — the very figure which must be arrived at by estimating all these individual factors.

Forecasts concerning the savings quota and investments fall into the realm of psychology. If the Government has announced special booster programmes for the period covered by the forecast, our pundits must guess whether they will be effective or fizzle out. There is ample scope for guessing — as there is over whether or not wage agreements will hamper growth.

In the past 18 months our experts have differed widely on these questions. RWI gave as a reason for its cautious growth forecast in the autumn of 1976 the anti-investment effects of "distortions in the distribution of incomes" — or, in plain language, excessively high wages.

Horst Seidler of Berlin's DIW, which went along with the majority and was further off the mark than RWI, still rejects the latter institute's argument.

"Our mistake did not lie in a wrong assessment of wages. But we were mistaken in assuming that rising demand from abroad would continue. We also did not expect that the state's fiscal policy would be so restrictive," said Herr Seidler.

The difference in the assessment of income distribution leads to the assumption that the forecasts of the institutes are governed by different political positions. RWI and DIW do not reject this out of hand, although they stress that their experts try hard to ignore politics.

Says one specialist: "We must retain our credibility. It would be the end of our organisations if we could rightly be accused of toeing a party line."

Theoretically, forecasters could also become biased by using information provided by business. They could, for instance, question individual companies about their investment intentions for the forecast period and be unlikely to receive true answers. This is why RWI maintains no formal contacts with business.

DIW, on the other hand, organises industrial conferences twice a year. This provides up to 200 representatives of industry, banking and trade with a chance to air their assessment of their branches of business. But such views are not taken at face value by the institute.

Following the recent spate of failures our economic pundits can no longer expect to have their forecasts accepted uncritically.

The extent to which forecasts are arrived at by guess or by God is evident from Horst Seidler's statement: "The latest fiscal decisions of the Federal Government were made public two days after we published our joint forecast in the autumn of 1977.

"This added 4,000 million deutschmarks to the demand potential which were not taken into account in our estimates. On the other hand, there was no way of telling in October to what extent the dollar erosion would hamper our exports.

"In other words, a bit less foreign demand will be offset by a bit more domestic demand — and that means that the growth rate in 1978 will not be far off our estimate of 3 per cent."

We shall see.

Wolfgang Gehrmann

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 11 February 1978)

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tions of money in the major industrialised nations and certainly not by the German locomotive, no more than a mini-engine.

Bonn has repeatedly pointed out — and rightly so — that unemployment cannot be eliminated by letting inflation run wild. And as for the United States, Washington might still have to learn its lesson in this respect.

The demand for more government boosting must also be seen in this light. The Federal Government and the Bundesbank have done what could be done, and it would not benefit our foreign trading partners if we were to permit prices to soar.

Concerning the impulses which an added one or two per cent of growth in Germany would give the world economy, those calling for such a growth policy have few illusions. They know that one per cent additional growth in this country would, according to the OECD, engender 0.3 per cent growth in the rest of Europe at the very best.

It is impossible to bring about growth by force, and the same applies to the monetary problems. Support agreements between governments and central banks can, in the long run, stabilise neither the dollar not the French franc.

State control is no substitute for market forces, and protectionism is no solution to our problems.

Claus Dertinger

(Die Welt, 14 February 1978)

Terrorism debate

Continued from page 3

this tradition, can we hope to combat them by tighter laws? If we use right wing extremist measures to combat left wing terrorism, the only result will be escalation and the destruction of the liberal state based on the rule of law.

It is fashionable in some circles to blame liberals for terrorism. The argument runs as follows: the intellectuals, certain writers, *Der Spiegel, Die Zeit,* are all to blame because they showed too much understanding for the rebellious students of the late sixties, when there were no anarchists and no terrorists.

Those to whom liberals were and are anathema now feel they have been proved right. They pretend there would never have been any terrorism if press and politicians had reacted swiftly at the time. What would the result of such a reaction have been?

There was simmering discontent in this country after Benno Ohnesorg, a student, was shot by the police while demonstrating against the Shah of Persia. If summary justice had been used against student protesters at the time, a large number of people would have sympathised with them and denounced this country as a police state.

The mood of the times can best be illustrated by a question that went the rounds in liberal cocktail circles at the time: "What would you do if Ulrike Meinhof knocked at your door and asked for shelter?"

The government of the time reacted with composure. The vast majority of the population condemned and still condemns terrorists and those who give them support. This is highly significant from a political point of view. This method has served us well up to now. We should bear this in mind.

Marion Dönhoff

(Die Zeit, 17 February 1978)

■ ENVIRONMENT

Fears mount for wildlife taking in killer toxins

Environmental pollution is taking an increasingly heavy toll of flora, fauna and man himself, the culprit, and if toxins fail to do the trick then destruction of an animal's natural habitat will surely do so.

It is no longer merely inroads on *Lebensraum* that we have come to accept as part of the price for industrial, infrastructure and tourist development.

Scientific surveys show that an alarming number of plants and animals are dropping heavily in numbers, especially in the industrialised world, as a result of an unremitting bombardment with toxins of one kind or another.

Species of wildlife whose survival is endangered include crabs, seals and eagles.

Recent research findings have resurrected the dispute as to which factor is the more ominous for the animal kingdom: pollution in general or the destruction of the natural environment.

It may well be a combination. A number of species are certainly showing signs of stress and disturbance and going into decline.

Two of them native to Central Europe are the seal, by no means as plentiful along the North Sea coast as before, and the peregrine falcon, on the verge of extinction.

Holidaymakers on the North Sea coast islands have always been delighted by ~~the antics of the seals that mate by the~~ thousand in secluded coves and inlets.

Whether future generations will be able to enjoy this spectacle is another matter. The number of seals along the German seaboard has declined from 3,900 in the early sixties to about 2,800 this season.

The decline along the Dutch coast has been even more drastic — from 4,000 to about 500 in 40 years.

Chemists and marine biologists at the Institute of Coastal and Inland Fisheries in Hamburg and the Institute of Animal Husbandry in Kiel reckon that seals consume and store in their tissue alarming quantities of heavy metals, insecticides and environmental toxins such as polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB).

The concentration of these toxins found in North Sea seal blubber exceeds the tolerance levels for edible fish by several hundredfold.

Tissue analysis of North Sea seal reveals mercury counts of between 1.5 and 160 milligrams per kilo of seal liver. The figures for zinc are 27 to 56 ppm, copper 2.6 to 17, cadmium 0.010 to 0.200 and lead 0.10 to 0.57.

Seal blubber has been found to contain between 27.3 and 564 milligrams of PCB per kilo and betwenn 2.2 and 23.3 ppm of DDT. High counts of insecticide toxins such as lindan and dieldrin have also been recorded.

Edible fish such as eel may only be sold with a DDT count of up to 3.5 milligrams, while the ceiling for other fish and crustaceans is two milligrams and for fish liver five milligrams.

The highest permissible mercury count for edible fish and seafood is one milligram per kilo, or one part per million, yet seal blubber has been found to contain up to 1,000 times higher a level than the fish that form the North Sea seal's staple diet.

Seals that are only a year or two old already rate a high toxin count, and seal babies are particularly hard hit by skin diseases, parasites and malnutrition. The number of young is declining steadily, with babies regularly being washed ashore.

Even adult seals do not find life easy during the mating season. There are too many spare-time sailors splashing about in coastal waters and too many holidaymakers splashing about in the shallows.

Mating seals need peace and quiet. Babies can only breast-feed in the seclusion of a sandbank, and although access is prohibited during the mating season, holidaymakers, including nudists, walk round as though they owned the beaches.

So environmental toxins and environmental stress between them decimate an entire species that cannot adapt to technological society.

Yet species facing extinction can not only survive but even regain lost terrain if they are strictly protected and spared disturbance by intruders, as ornithologists point out in connection with the peregrine falcon.

The peregrine falcon has long been on the verge of extinction, running the risk of ending its days perched on the wrist of an Arab oil sheikh and as a heraldic animal.

Nesting pairs have declined in number drastically since the war, from about 400 in 1950 to a mere 30 in 1965.

The peregrine, which flies at up to 200 miles an hour, needs an extensive area in which to hunt and breed undisturbed. Its numbers in this country have plummeted as even the most isolated areas have been developed.

Numbers have also been depleted by falconers hunting, shooting and catching. Peregrine falcons fetch up to 5,000 deutschmarks each.

What is more, the falcon's prey is increasingly contaminated with chlorinated hydrocarbons and PCB. Their eggs have been found to contain enormous concentrations of insecticides and herbicides too.

The falcon's metabolism, it appears, is incapable of converting these alien substances into harmless compounds.

Irregularities and even cessation of breeding may ensue, with the female laying fewer eggs with thinner shells. The embryo relies on the shell for virtually all its calcium supply, reducing the thickness of the shell by seven per cent or so as it matures.

Peregrine falcons are rare in the United States, Canada, Sweden, Britain and elsewhere in Central Europe. In this country, too, they have virtually disappeared.

A few pairs still nest in Baden-Württemberg, however, and in 1966 the Ornithological Association launched a rescue bid, with 200 volunteers maintaining a round-the-clock vigil.

They even used electronic devices to safeguard the falcons' nests, with the result that the number of known nesting pairs grew from 20 to 30 in a decade and more and more chicks survived.

Interestingly enough, the Baden-Württemberg falcons' eggs currently have a 50 to 100 times higher count of heptachlorepoxide, DDE and PCB than in 1970.

So although the levels are extremely alarming, as Dieter Rockenbauch of the rescue bid campaign says, pollution may not be the major offender.

However interested parties, falconers and fairground operators in particular, stress the role played by toxins, he argues, when in fact the culprits are people who disturb nesting birds for whatever purpose.

Recent research into the pollution to which bird life in this country is exposed indicates that toxins are not necessarily the reason for the dramatic decline in numbers among many species.

Birds develop a certain immunity to toxins. What really hits them is the combination of pollution, intrusion and the steady reduction of their natural habitat.

They might be able to withstand one of the three factors, but they cannot cope with all three.

Destruction of habitat is a well-known factor, although its importance may not always be sufficiently borne in mind. But the extent of pollution comes as a surprise.

Dortmund biologist Bernd Conrad analysed 457 bird's eggs of common species in this country. Nineteen species were involved and not a single egg was found to be free from traces of either pesticides or PCB.

Every one contained traces of hexachlorobenzole, DDE and PCB. Heptachlorexpoxide was found in 99.3 per cent, aldrin and dieldrin in 47.2 and 43.5 per cent respectively.

All the eggs he analysed contained a higher count of at least one pesticide than allowed by the Egg Marketing Board.

The eggshells of at least five species were between four and 12.5 per cent thinner than before. *Harro H. Müller*

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 12 February 1978)



(Cartoon: Mitropoulos/Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung)

Bonn moves to control chemicals

Thirty thousand individual chemical substances are in current industrial use, plus a much larger number of compounds. They are joined by between 500 and 1,000 newcomers a year, all of which may be hazards to the environment.

Parliament often fails to deal with damage to the environment by toxic substances until it is too late. But this need not be the case.

Bonn is thinking of a Toxic Substances Control Act, although the draft at present envisaged by the Interior Ministry is unlikely to be as tough as its US counterpart.

This country is trailing behind industrialised nations such as the Japanese, the Swedes, the Canadians and the Americans over legal control of toxins.

The provisions all countries so far have in common include exacting tests of chemicals before they are marketed, registration of chemicals with an official agency (in America the EPA) and powers to impose bans and restrictions.

Bonn's present scheme will leave manufacturers at liberty to manufacture substances subject to the proviso that the government may intervene if necessary.

The alternative, would be a general ban on the manufacture of new chemicals until the go-ahead has been given by a government body.

The Bonn Interior Ministry feels systematic and comprehensive arrangement for present and future substances on the market is needed, but proposes to do no more than draft proposals in conjunction with manufacturers.

Chemicals will have to be registered and or analysed in accordance with environmental hazard classification. Manufacture will not be subject to licensing as in the United States. New chemicals will merely be tested before use.

Provision is also to be made for possible tests of substances already on the market.

Tests will cost an estimated DM50,000 per substance, payable by the manufacturer. Bonn prefers not to license substances for manufacture because the government might then be liable for damages.

The ministry has said that there can be no question of government liability for damage done by chemical substances in the way that the government is liable in, say, a nuclear mishap.

Individual governments are not alone in trying to keep pace with the growing number of new chemicals. International bodies are also active.

UNEP, the United Nations environmental agency, has for years been compiling a list of potentially toxic chemicals. A German chemist is in charge of the registry.

Half a million different chemicals are in use, UNEP says. Ten thousand are manufactured in annual quantities ranging between 500 and one million grams.

To assess the risk UNEP is compiling physical and chemical properties of chemicals and compounds and their progress round various cycles in the atmosphere and the water system.

The International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals lists publications that bring about environmental changes. There are several thousand of them, it is estimated.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 7 February 1978)

■ HISTORY

Archaeologists and coalminers combine to dig up new evidence on man's past

Open-cast mining of brown coal, or lignite, is extensive in a roughly triangular area on the left bank of the Rhine from Cologne to Aachen and back to Neuss.

Mining companies and archaeologists work hand in hand, according to Dr Kuper of the department of prehistory and early history at Cologne University.

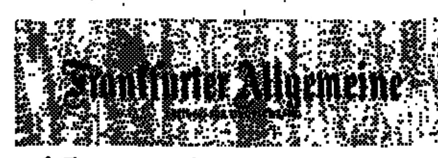
"Nowhere," he says, "can archaeology gain a clearer picture of the soil, conduct such unrestricted excavations and benefit from the use of the latest in earth-moving equipment as on the outskirts of strip-mining areas.

"Some of the most important postwar digs in the Rhineland owe their success to cooperation between archaeologists and the mining industry.

"Where entire areas are systematically bulldozed down to their brown coal deposits archaeological research into past habitation can be conducted in a manner that is otherwise impossible.

"By following the progress of excavation and noting all traces of habitation archaeologists can, within a relatively short period of time, accumulate detailed knowledge about population density, movements, habits, economic and social structure in prehistoric times that would otherwise for the most part never come to light."

In this area to the west of Cologne the most extensive excavations in Central Europe are in progress, covering archaeological strata from the early Stone Age to the early Middle Ages.



In the process entirely new methods of excavation and evaluation have been developed. In Czechoslovakia 15 acres were excavated in the course of a dig lasting 15 years. In Merzbachtal near the Rhine 61 acres were excavated in 20 months to uncover the brown coal seams.

During the Merzbachtal dig thousands of archaeological finds came to light, as did the outlines of some 160 houses.

Research into the Early and Middle Stone Age benefited handsomely, but the Late Stone Age even more so. At Aldenhoven traces of the earliest known agriculture in Europe were discovered.

Six thousand years ago a civilisation, identified by means of a special ceramic design, tilled the land here, domesticated cattle and stored crops.

Convincing evidence has been found in the form of charred grains of corn, sickle-shaped tools and millstones.

Contrary to assumptions the Late Stone Age people were not nomads. Their substantial longhouses certainly indicate that Late Stone Age man settled in this area.

Much to the archaeologists' surprise this civilisation even left traces of earthworks, a sure sign of a settled life.

They seem to have been earth and wood embankments 100 yards or so in diameter with moats to keep out attackers. No doubt they afforded both people and cattle refuge.

This would seem to indicate that arable land was growing scarce. Archaeologists have rebuilt similar fortifications to see how long they last before repairs are needed.

Flint seems also to have been scarce, or at least in heavy demand for the manufacture of tools. Archaeologists have found traces of a Stone Age flint mine near Aachen.

Vestiges of the Bronze Age are infrequent in this part of the world. Stone utensils appear still to have been used. By the early Iron Age people seem to have settled in the north of the Eifel foothills, too.

Here, south of Bonn and near the Nürburgring racetrack, Iron Age man seems to have fashioned clay foundries. Then came the days of Ancient Rome and recorded history.

Sorting, cataloguing, describing, evaluating and publishing the finds will take three or four years and the next site is already planned.

At Hambach 33 square miles of countryside is due for excavation to a depth of 550 yards over the decades to come. Mining companies expect to mine 2,400 million tons of brown coal.

The first excavations are due later this year. Archaeologists have been engaged in preliminary digs since 1975, but before long they will be overshadowed by jumbo bucketwheel dredgers.

Archaeological excavations will keep pace with the earth-moving equipment. They will have to work fast.

An initial 400,000 deutschmarks have been earmarked for the project and the mining companies will lend a hand, as in the past.

According to Professor Janssen of the *Rheinisches Landesmuseum*, Bonn, more than 300 sites in this area are of interest to archaeologists. Eighty per cent date back to Roman times and include a Roman glassworks complete with several well-preserved kilns.

While Professor Janssen retains overall charge of the brown coal archaeological project, his colleagues, Dr Rech and Dr Czysz, are engaged in fieldwork in the Hambach area.

On occasion Cologne University department of prehistory and early history is asked to help with neolithic remains.

Archaeologists reckon they will unearth finds at about 3,000 locations. The Hambach area is currently half arable land and half woodland.

The woodland consists of oak forests often several hundred years old, and archaeologists are confident of unearthing interesting specimens here.

Tilled land is continually upturned, whereas woodland specimens ought to be in extraordinary good condition or even mint from the archaeologist's point of view. *G. Taube*

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 6 February 1978)

■ WRITING

Novelist at bay: Günter Grass faces his translators

DIE ZEIT

Günter Grass recently spent a whole week in Frankfurt answering the questions of translators working on his voluminous novel *Der Butt* (The Flounder).

The novel is being translated into 12 languages and nine of the 12 translators met the author. It seems a sensible and natural thing to do, but surprisingly this kind of meeting between authors and translators is rare.

Translators do quite often discuss their work with authors, usually at their own expense. German authors meet their translators at the Esslingen Translators' Converence.

Günter Grass is the first author who has stipulated in his contract that he should meet his translators before they have completed their work — while changes and improvements can still be made. If Lorca or Joyce had done the same they would probably have changed the course of literary history.

Translating is a mug's game in any language. For one thing, a translation can only be a poor approximation of the original. For another, it is virtually impossible to make a decent living out of literary translation anywhere.

A translator in the Scandinavian countries and in the Federal Republic of Germany gets about DM 15 a page. A page of average difficulty takes two hours to translate, if you take into account research, consulting dictionaries and proof correcting. It requires no great expertise in mathematics to work out that a charlady gets a better hourly rate than a translator.

If this remuneration seems low, we should take a look at what translators in other countries get. The Italian translator of *Der Butt* will get DM 7.50 per page. The standard rate in Spain is a laughable DM 3.50. Translators in the Scandinavian countries, especially the Netherlands, get grants to help them out. Spanish translations are frequently part-financed by organisations such as *Inter Nationes*, which has paid for many translations from German.

A translator's chances of getting reasonably paid for his work are better in Japan. Here translator and author both get a percentage of royalties on books sold. Fifty thousand copies of Grass's *Tin Drum* and *Cat and Mouse* were sold in Japan and the translator got eight per cent. This is roughly what an architect would get (though an architect's reward does not depend on the number of people who use his bridge).

Literary translation is still an activity for enthusiasts in their spare time.

It is like a complex game of patience in which the players are determined to express the author's ideas in their own language.

This means that translators are often hard-working, modest, rather withdrawn people, pedantic porers over texts rather than flamboyant talkers.

Grass was certainly taken aback by the whole experience: "I've never known anything like it. The entire group worked together in complete harmony. There were no aggressions. They just got on with the job without any fuss," he said.

The reason for this lies in the nature of the translators' work. They are not so much interested in what the author has to say or what he is trying to achieve as they are absorbed in linguistic problems.

They do not ask questions such as: What were you trying to say? Were you trying to ridicule the Women's Lib movement? Do you just write to make money? This was what students at the Frankfurt bookseller's school asked Günter Grass.

Translators, unlike critics and most readers, are not interested in ideas, intentions, implications, or the significance of the work as a whole. They can be compared to an engineer who has to reconstruct an existing building, barracks or palace with different materials. He is mainly concerned with the properties of the stone he is using. For the translator, words, turns of phrase and intonations are building bricks.

To look at Grass's *Butt* from the translator's perspective for a week is a new and fascinating way of examining the text. It enables us to see the language in relief; instead of concentrating on meaning, one is absorbed in undertones and overtones, cross-references, tone and rhythm. Apart from Arno Schmidt (who is untranslatable) no living German writer has such a complete command of his language as Günter Grass.

Der Butt is a novel about Danzig and world history, cooking and food, men and women — but it is also a subtle and complex structure of linguistic interconnections.

Grass sees writing as a way of preventing the impoverishment and rationalisation of the German language. His use of the epic form is an attempt to escape from the flatness and monotony of the language he was forced to use when he was Willy Brandt's star speechwriter.

Grass's linguistic inventiveness is a great encouragement to his translators. He does not write the smooth, everyday, easily readable language which has become standard. He makes demands on his readers and it is just too bad if they cannot meet them. Grass can afford not to make concessions.



(Photo: Dinge-Meller Marçowitz)

Language that can't be found in a dictionary

The language of the book ranges from Middle High German *(Din sper jesuherz/macht wunniklich smerz)* to slang and jargon so modern you won't find it in any dictionary: *anmachen* (to chat up), *geschlechtsspezifisches Defizit* (sex starvation), *ideologisch saubere Überichstütze* (ideologically acceptable super-ego support). Then there is a wide range of dialects: Platt, East Prussian, Berlin, the dialect spoken at the mouth of the river Vistula. There is also the language of the fairy tale, of journalism, of recipes, politics and bureaucrats, lyrical and anti-lyrical passages. The language of feminists is parodied one moment and taken dead seriously the next. The transition from one linguistic register to the next is often bewilderingly swift.

Looking at *Der Butt* from the translator's point of view, we get an insight into the idiosyncrasies of Grass's use of language and his style. He is always coining new words: *zeitwellen*, to pass-time (to travel though time in various guises), *zwischennehmen* (to describe what a willing woman does with a man), *tischen* (to table) meaning to serve, *Manzi*, from *emanzipiert* (emancipated), an affectionate generic term for Women's Libbers and *Fürundfürsorge* (a play on words implying that the welfare state is over-protective). These are not only neologisms, they are key concepts in *Der Butt*.

Then there is Grass's tendency to use short, elliptic phrases such as *Die wog nicht. Die sah nicht aus* (Thin as a rake. Looked rough.) He uses adjectives cumulatively, defying the rules of the German language by omitting commas as in *Versteppt bewaldet verwildert* (made desert wooded wild). He uses words in their literal and their non-literal sense: *versteigen* (to climb, to aspire), *Der Zeuge*, which usually means witness but is derived from the verb *zeugen*, which means, among other things, to beget.

The Catholics in his book believe that Danzig *verluthert*, a play on the verb verlottern, to go to the dogs. In other words, Danzig is going to the dogs now the Protestants are in control.

Grass uproots the adjective from its fixed position in normal German word order and transforms it into a kind of adjective-adverb: *Augen schwammen weiss* (eyes swam white). One cook needs *Töpfe feuerfest* (pots fireproof).

Then there is Grass's habit of taking an idiomatic phrase and giving it a new double meaning. It is not only our grammar and pronunciation which make German such a difficult language for foreigners to learn. Our language is bursting at the seams with idioms, phrases which cannot be understood literally.

What is a non-German to make of sentences such as *Die Schönheit der Kartoffel feierte in ihrem Gesicht* (the beauty of the potatoes lit up, celebrated in, on her face.)? Or of *alltag* — everyday, in the sense of grey routine. *Du bist doch fertig, Mann, und nur noch läufig* which could mean either you're historically irrelevant and you're just playing out time or you're shattered and just randy. How can a foreigner be aware of these ambivalences, this continual ploughing over word fields?

There are many ways a translator can go wrong. He can translate literally and naively. He can read too much into phrases which, for once, have no meaning other than the literal one. Is *am Gänsebein nagen* an idiom? No, it is not. But it could be and no one would be surprised if it were.

Grass describes a church in Danzig as a *gotische Backsteinglucke*. When we look up *Glucke* in the dictionary we find that it means a large mushroom. Is Grass comparing the Church to a broody hen or a (phallic) mushroom? It would fit in with the general phallomania of the book.

Then there are those objects which the translator must be able to see before him, where knowledge of the equivalent in his own language is simply not enough. Indeed, what German could explain without consulting a dictionary what *Glumse, Schwarzsauer, Schwadengrütze, Bulwe or Wruke* all mean? Who knows what *Altkätner, Instleute, Hauskompture* or *Pfahlgelder* are? Who can still recall *Kohlrübenwinter* (wartime winters), *Trümmerfrauen* (women who sorted rubble on bombsites) and *Kohlenklau* (Goebbels' sinister wartime coal-stealing trailor)? Then there are the innumerable mushrooms mentioned in this book.

Translaters have to invent new dialects

All the botanical names have to be absolutely correct. There are no Chinese mushrooms in Oliva Forest. Many of these mushrooms have very graphic names. There are frequent allusions in the book to the *Stinkmorchel*, the Latin name for which is *Phallus impudicus*.

Then there is the sentence "she can't stand my mushroom" the meaning of which is accessible even to non-botanists. This particular mushroom is called *dog's piss* in Italian, but that is no help to the translator. And the translator who makes a mistake here is playing with his reader's life (he could eat the wrong mushroom and die of food poisoning).

There is also the question of dialects. The Andalusian dialect of Spanish is no equivalent for German Platt. The translator has to invent a dialect of his own in this case. New words have to be coined where there is no equivalent in the translator's mother tongue.

This is far more difficult in the Romance languages than in German. There are more rigid rules in these languages and a new coinage is often regarded as a barbarism.

The Japanese translator cannot, for example, imitate the styles of previous centuries in his language. Nor can he use rhyme. There are no mushrooms in Norway and so there are no popular names for them.

The expression *Über den Jordan gehen* can mean over the hill or dead in German. Literally translated, it would be pure chauvinism in Modern Hebrew. *Jesuslatschen* are black sandals worn mainly by young people. There is nothing pious about them.

Konsumterror is the same in all lan-

Continued on page 11

Continued from page 10

guages (or at least we assume it is — the English, French and Yugoslavian translators sent apologies for their absence). *Sextanerpimmel* (first form schoolboy's penis) was immediately comprehensible to all the translators.

Grass described his discussions with his translators all as a strange experience, a farewell to his book. For the first time in his life, he even explained one of his poems. Now that it is over, the first thing he must do is to forget this meeting altogether. Otherwise he will begin thinking of the difficulties he is likely to cause his translators when writing his next book. *Dieter E. Zimmer*

(Die Zeit, 10 February 1978)

■ EDUCATION

Schools take new look at teaching of foreign workers' children

Günther Piroth, a Mainz teacher analyses the problems involved in teaching foreign children in German schools. The article originally appeared in the educational magazine *Schulmanagement* (School Management).

There are foreign children in practically every *Hauptschule* (secondary modern school) and primary school in the Federal Republic, aggravating the already considerable problems of teaching:

Headmasters constantly complain about difficulties caused by foreign pupils. It is not merely a numerical problem. The children need extra language classes and special tuition to keep up with their German peers. This involves organisational and timetabling problems as well as taking up a large amount of teachers' time.

Subject teachers frequently complain that large numbers of foreign children make teaching more difficult. They argue that they lower the level of attainment in the class and it is impossible to give them special attention they need in every lesson.

Foreign children are the main cause of disruption in lessons, say teachers. They simply do not know how to react to the pupils' behaviour. Often they resort to disciplinary measures which the pupils resent violently. The result is a vicious circle and poor academic results.

Only a third of foreign children pass the elementary school-leaving certificate, hardly surprising in view of the problems. But schools are frequently attacked for being the cause of the failure rate.

On the other hand, many German parents protest at their children being taught alongside foreign pupils. They are afraid that teachers have to spend too much time coping with the special problems of the foreign pupils and that their own children's education suffers.

These protests are often followed by the demand that foreign children should go to separate schools, if not be sent back to their countries of origin. Many foreign parents' representatives support these demands, though from different motives.

This hard line is slowly changing. There are now signs of a more positive approach to the problem. Some headmasters have gone out of their way to encourage foreign pupils to attend their schools. Why have foreign pupils suddenly become attractive?

The interest becomes less mysterious when we look at population statistics.

Over the last few years, thanks to the Pill, the birthrate for German children has been slowing down, whereas the birthrate for foreign children has been increasing absolutely.

Schools which have up to now shown no interest in foreign pupils face the prospect of losing teachers. Some schools will be merged and that means that some headmasters will lose their jobs. Schools with good linguists on their teaching staffs can admit foreign pupils and solve short- and middle-term staffing and financial problems.

The temptation to do this should be resisted at all costs. It could do irreparable harm to the foreign children concerned. Integration and socialisation problems cannot be solved by language instruction alone.

What many headmasters do not realise is that these foreign children present new and difficult problems quite out of proportion to their numbers. Headmasters should bear some points in mind when making their decisions.

We are talking here not of foreign children in general but of the children of foreign "guest workers." Perhaps it would be more accurate to describe these foreign workers as migrant labourers or transient labourers. At the moment there are four million foreign workers in this country, 6.4 per cent of the population.

The parents come from backgrounds of economic hardship. They want to earn enough money in their few years here to establish themselves and be able to live reasonably prosperously when they return home.

Their ultimate aim is to return to their countries of origin. Therefore they have little motivation to learn German well and integrate themselves into German society. It has been shown that the wish to return home weakens after five to ten years in this country. But this is often too late for their children.

There is considerable mobility among foreign workers. They move house relatively frequently. This means their children never really settle and feel at home. They do not have the same opportunities as most of their German contemporaries to play and do homework in peace.

Often their homes are very cramped, with several children sleeping in one room.

Frequent moves also hamper socialisation. The children lag behind their German contemporaries. Even their mastery of their mother tongues is imperfect. This mobility has a direct effect on performance at school.

The children's parents have often only had an elementary education, so they are little help. Some parents are illiterate. In some cases there is no compulsory schooling in the children's country of origin, or else the subjects taught and the standards are very different.

This means that it is practically impossible to go straight from the foreign to the equivalent German class. Foreign children are usually put into lower classes and many foreign children and their parents regard this as punishment for something they can do nothing about. Their chances of passing the elementary school certificate dwindle. In many schools large numbers of foreign children are frustrated and cynical about their futures.

This is not the only reason why more foreign parents do not want their children to go to German schools. Most of them intend to return home at some time — though they often do not know when — and they want their children to get an education of use to them at home.

They are also worried that their children will meet similar problems when they return to schools in their countries.

It is hardly surprising then that many parents are not interested in their children's progress at school. This indifference is particularly striking when contrasted to the way parents react when children bring home reports on their additional first language lessons. These reports are treated as far more important than those for ordinary German school subjects.

This hinders the children's progress in the German language preparatory classes given in the nationality groups introduced to make the transition into ordinary German classes easier. Parents often tell their children not to bother or to do only a minimum in these classes.

Many parents also feel that German schools drive a wedge between them and their children. Mothers often complain that children speak only German at home and plead ignorance of their mother tongue to avoid obeying their parents. It is interesting that the same children often pretend that they do not understand a word in German lessons.

The opportunity to become bilingual is all too often wasted. Children become merely semi-illiterate in two languages rather than literate in one. This makes it virtually impossible to integrate these children.

The foreign parents' attitude is typified by the fact that they often take their children out of school when they go home on holiday. Older children frequently have to stay at home to look after younger brothers and sisters.

Earning money is the top priority among most of these workers, with children left alone for most of the day. This explains why one often sees children hanging around school playgrounds hours before lessons a start or dawdling after school has ended. The problem is that if teachers send them off school premises they are in even greater danger on the streets.

There are dramatic fluctuations in attendance at German language preparatory classes. There are also the new pupils whose parents have only just arrived in Germany and are complete beginners. Yet they are in the same classes as foreign pupils born in Germany and speaking German relatively well.

Pupils who have learnt enough German join normal classes. One of the main functions of the preparatory classes is to diagnose and eliminate these language problems.

It is clearly impossible to give these children the extra help they would need to catch up in subjects other than German- apart from the fact that teaching and learning methods here are often radically different from their home countries.

These pupils find school tough going. They have great difficulty adapting to the German way of life, slowly lose heart, get frustrated and regard themselves as failures.

German teachers have noted that many pupils begin by being highly motivated and keen to learn and gradually lose interest. Other subject teachers notice that these pupils are often idlers, disrupters and truants.

All this indicates that the problem of transition for these children cannot be solved in one or two years. It is a far more complex and lasting problem. Language difficulties are often just symptoms of deeper psychological and social problems. Recent research has shown that on average over a half of these foreign pupils have behavioural problems.

Some may ask: "Why should we admit foreign pupils to German schools when this only leads to insoluble problems and increases the pressure on our own children, bad enough as it is?"

The answer is that, regardless of what school they go to, most of these pupils will not be able to find a job in their home countries which guarantees them the standard of living and the income they have been accustomed to in this country. And how are they to be integrated in a country which they know little about and have only visited on holiday?

As the population figures show, most of these pupils remain in Germany when they leave school. Their poor academic background condemns them to unemployment. Their choice, then is between crime and resignation.

Günther Piroth

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 10 February 1978)



(Photo: Manfred Vollmer)

■ HEALTH

Clinic claims heart attack breakthrough

About 150,000 Germans suffer heart attacks every year, and 75,000 die from them, usually before the doctor arrives.

But even heart attack patients who make it to a hospital are by no means safe. Every third or fourth dies in the intensive care unit, making for a post-heart attack *fatality rate in hospitals* of between 25 and 30 per cent.

Only in one German clinic are the survival chances of coronary patients considerubly higher than the national average — at the *Evangelisches Waldkrankenhaus*, Berlin-Spandau (the Protestant forest hospital).

Says Professor Rolf E. Dohrmann, the hospital's chief internist: "Our particular therapy has enabled us to reduce mortality following heart attacks by about 50 per cent during the past two years. Only one out of six heart attack patients dies at our hospital."

This figure can only be called spectacular. Professor Dohrmann's therapy for acute heart infarction is generally considered an outsider's method and, indeed, malpractice in some instances.

The chief internist at the *Waldkrankenhaus* not only injects every heart attack patient with *prednisolon* (a synthetic cortisone preparation), but with *strophantin* as well. His theory about heart infarction is considered unproved and fallacious by the majority of his colleagues.

But the facts speak for themselves: Of 205 patients treated at Professor Dohrmann's hospital since 1 October 1975 only 34 died, a fatality rate of 16.5 per cent. Before that time, when that hospital's patients were treated along the lines of conventional therapy (without *strophantin*(, the fatality rate was twice as high.

Speaking at a medical congress in Berlin, Professor Dohrmann for the first time presented his statistics and his therapy method to the Berlin branch of the German Society for Intensive Care Medicine.



Children's X-ray

A young patient is tested on the Infantoscope, a special X-ray machine developed by the Stuttgart Children's Clinic. The machine uses little radiation, moves easily and gives a good view of the patient. The clinic also has a supersonic diagnosing machine such as those used by gynaecologists. The device takes painless echo soundings which can be safely repeated.

(Photo: Jörg Maucher)

"My method is unorthodox and runs counter to traditional medical ideas. I know that this makes me an outsider; but I object to being lumped together with a group of medical pragmatists with whom I in no way identify myself," said Professor Dohrmann.

Doctors at the congress knew exactly to whom Professor Dohrmann referred: a group of medical practitioners who favour prophylaxis by means of *strophantin* pills, a group from which he distanced himself.

The group's theory is based on the work of Stuttgart internist Dr Bertold Kern and Dresden Professor Manfred von Ardenn.

Professor Dohrmann says, however, that he has made use of certain theoretical findings of Kern and Ardenn in his therapy.

According to him, one of the reasons for heart infarction is lack of oxygen in the myocardial cells (heart muscle cells). This leads to overacidity of a group of cells, which in turn results in the decomposition of cell membranes and a bloating of lysozymes in the cells, which finally rupture, releasing enzymes. The outcome is myocardiac necrosis.

In order to prevent this dangerous process, Professor Dohrmann says, it is necessary to halt overacidity and to "repair" the membranes.

"While overacidity can be checked by *strophantin*, the stabilisation of the membranes is achieved by *prednisolon*," Professor Dohrmann says.

At the *Evangelisches Waldkrankenhaus* every new cardiac patient is instantly administered 0.25 milligrammes of *strophantin*, followed by an infusion of 200 milligrammes of carbocromen, a coronary dilator which improves the blood supply to the heart. The rest of the treatment is conventional and includes painkilling drugs and tranquilisers.

Before Professor Dohrmann embarked on his *prednisolon-strophantin* therapy, 81 of 206 patients died, a mortality rate of 38.8 per cent.

Since the introduction of the new therapy on 1 October 1975, only 34 out of 205 patients have succumbed, a mortality rate of 16.5 per cent.

But not only mortality has been reduced by 50 per cent. Heart rhythm disturbances also diminished from 20.4 to 12.7 per cent. And circulatory weakness dropped from 11.5 to 4.5 per cent.

The minimal applause which Professor Dohrmann received from his colleagues indicated rejection and disbelief.

Said Professor H. Hochrein, head of Berlin's Rudolf Virchow Hospital which held the congress: "If the groups of patients compared by you are indeed comparable at all, the results of your therapy can only be called spectacular."

Professor Rolf Schröder, cardiologist and head of Berlin's Steglitz Clinic, put his views quite bluntly to Professor Dohrmann: "According to the rules of biometrics your research work is impermissible. You will have to randomise if you want to convince us."

Professor Dohrmann rejects a randomised study because he is convinced of the effectiveness of his therapy and certain that his treatment increases the survival chances of patients.

He feels he would violate medical ethics if he were to permit only half of his patients to have this treatment and thus live.

His suggestion to his colleagues is that they carry out a randomised study in which half of their patients are treated along Dohrmann lines while the other half would receive conventional treatment. The suggestion was rejected.

Werner Thumshirn

(Münchner Merkur, 10 February 1978)

Farm wives under stress – survey

Middle-aged farmers' wives in the Federal Republic of Germany suffer more from stress than their husbands.

This has been established by a study commissioned by the *Agrarsoziale Gesellschaft* (agri-social society), Göttingen.

Researchers of the Heidelberg Institute for Social and Industrial Medicine spent three years interviewing 4,596 men and women in rural areas of Lower Saxony and Bavaria and 2,556 men working in the city administration of Mannheim. And these are the results:

- Many farmers' wives between 40 and 50 show the same stress symptoms as male civil servants and white-collar workers, despite the fact that their lives are generally considered "healthy".
- 8.6 per cent of farmers' wives suffer from vegetative disorders, and of these 22,3 per cent have high blood pressure. This corresponds roughly to male city dwellers, of whom 9.1 per cent have vegetative disorders and 22.8 per cent suffer from hypertension. Of the farmers, on the other hand, only 3 per cent have vegetative disorders and 13 per cent excessive blood pressure.

According to the authors of the study, this is due to the daily ratrace between cow byre, kitchen, children, farm machinery, the fields and the vegetable garden.

This overtaxing of the farm woman, who frequently has to do the work of two or three people, take care of the household, the cooking and look after older relatives on top of caring for livestock and helping in the fields, is clearly the cause.

The situation could be remedied by preventive medical care and above all by instruction on preventive measures.

While 36 out of 100 men working for the Mannheim city administration said they spent time in spas, only seven out of 100 farm women did the same. *dpa*

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 7 February 1978)

New test spots alcoholism

Munich's Max Planck Institute for Psychiatry has evolved a 31-item questionnaire aimed at providing a clear diagnosis of alcoholism.

Speaking at a press conference at (of all places) Munich's famous Hofbräuhaus beerhall, Bavaria's Social Affairs Minister Fritz Prikl said that the questionnaire at last provided an instrument with which to arrive at an early diagnosis of people in danger of becoming alcoholics.

Much less attention was paid to the national scourge of alcoholism than to drug addiction, which was numerically considerably less important, he said.

Although it is known that hospitalised alcoholics increase at about 10 per cent a year, exact figures are unavailable because doctors are not obliged to report cases of alcoholism.

The grey zone of undiagnosed and unreported alcoholics is estimated at between five and six per cent of this country's adult population.

Due to a society which on the one hand promotes and, in some instances, even demands the consumption of liquor, while on the other hand censuring it, many people tend to deny that they are alcoholics or at least dismiss it. This is the view of Professor Wilhelm Feuerlein, head of the psychiatric clinic of the Max Planck Institute.

According to him, such typical diseases resulting from alcoholism as cirrhosis of the liver provide no clear criteria because the borderline between mere drinking and alcohol abuse is undefined.

Frequently even doctors fail to recognise alcoholism as the actual cause of many somatic and psycho-social disturbances.

The Munich alcoholism test was developed to remedy this. It consists of a number of symptoms to be established by a doctor, plus a self-assessment questionnaire for the patient.

This includes psychological and social elements ("People don't understand why I drink") and physical complaints such as trembling of the hands. All these factors are evaluated by a point system.

In a clinical review of the test, 90 per cent of the alcoholics were clearly diagnosed. Another eight per cent were assessed as being potential alcoholics or susceptible to alcoholism.

Two per cent eluded categorisation either because they showed no clinical symptoms or because they staunchly denied drinking.

Ten per cent of alcoholics were discovered among those who, by traditional criteria, were not suspected of alcoholism.

The new diagnosis method will be made available to all medical organisations. The test can be used by any doctor.

Professor Feuerlein says the new test method is also a major contribution towards alcoholism research.

Social Affairs Minister Pirkl (a psychologist) hopes this will enable the medical profession to detect alcoholism at an early stage. Therapy could then begin at home rather than in an institution.

Most alcoholics who need hospitalisation can no longer be rehabilitated, with 80 per cent suffering a relapse. And even with intensive after-care the relapse rate still amounts to 50 per cent.

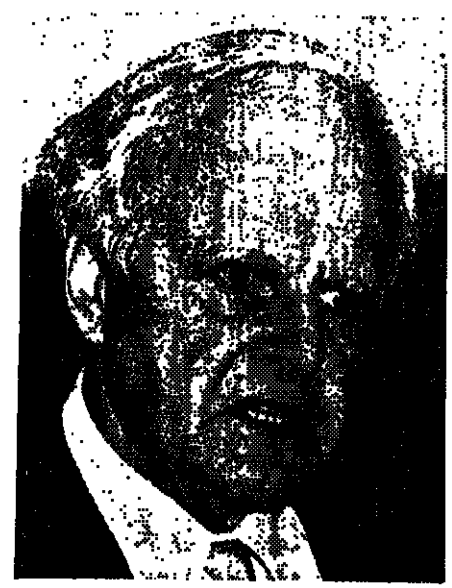
There is as yet no such thing as a 100 per cent cure for alcoholism.

Karl Stankiewitz

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 10 February 1978)

■ BOOKS

A scientist and philosopher puts truth back together



Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker

(Photo: Sven Simon)

Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker's book *Der Garten des Menschlichen* (The Garden of All Things Human) is a collection of his writings from the last seven years. The subtitle of this book is *Beiträge zur geschichtlichen Anthropologie* (Contributions to Historical Anthropology).

The writings in the collection range from scientific treatises to lectures for the layman, from essays and sermons to radio talks. Despite the variety of forms, the reader is struck by the unity, the characteristic quality of Weizsäcker's though.

These reflections are the work of one of the most universal thinkers of our time. Weizsäcker's work does not conform to our expectations of what a natural scientist would or should write.

He is primarily a physicist, but in this book we see him as cultural critic, philosopher and mystic. Yet there is no contradiction between these positions — he combines them astonishingly well.

Weizsäcker completely undermines out tendency to think in fixed categories, the mental inflexibility which is at the root of so many misunderstandings. He spent his early academic life as a physicist and, at the peak of his powers, switched to philosophy. For over a decade he was professor of philosophy at Hamburg University. In 1970 he became director of the Max Planck Institute for Research on the Conditions of Life in a Scientific-Technical World, in Starnberg.

The change of academic disciplines is not as radical as it may appear. Weizsäcker is basically looking at different aspects of the same truth. The truth which scientists and philosophers (especially Platonists) seek, and which mystics claim to know, is ultimately one, a fact we often lose sight of.

Weizsäcker does not believe in separating the religious from the scientific experience. The boundaries between the two experiences are fluid. Often the researcher finds himself, without realising and without wanting it, in the role of *homo religiosus*.

Weizsäcker's book ends with a *Selbstdarstellung* (an account of his intellectual development) in which he says: "The core of my thinking is scientific and religious and not political. This is perhaps because I have never hesitated to say what I think in matters of science and religion even when, as they often did, they differed from the views of the vast majority."

It is revealing how naturally and unselfconsciously Weizsäcker puts religion and science in the same context.

Weizsäcker describes the general attitude of modern physicists to religion as "agnostic but open-minded." His own attitude is basically religious, a fact which cannot simply be explained by reference to his upbringing and family background.

The decisive experience for him seems to be his reading of the Sermon on the Mount as a boy: "I read the Sermon on the Mount when I was 11 years old and immediately thought to myself: 'If this is true, then our whole life is wrong, even the life of those I love and respect'." This radical view of Jesus's teachings remained with him.

Weizsäcker has written a long exegetical essay on the Sermon on the Mount. He uses the Greek originals in his analysis and, reading it, one could take it for the work of a theologian.

Despite the erudition, the intention behind it is not merely scholarly. The question that absorbs Weizsäcker is if, and to what extent, Jesus's words can be lived up to in everyday life (the essential question for all Christians). Welzäcker's own opinion is also a profession of faith: "It is not true that men cannot change. They can. But they can only do so by means of God's grace — to use Christian terminology — and not by their own good works." The Lutheran terminology here is unmistakable.

Although his whole way of thought is powerfully stamped and influenced by Lutheranism, Weizsäcker cannot be described as narrowly Protestant. He is deeply versed in the Indian religions, which have had a profound effect on his thinking. His account of his religious experiences in India border on the ecstatic.

There are passages in this book which sound strange and almost indecent coming from a natural scientist. Yet these passages open up a new dimension which does not contradict scientific thinking, but extends its boundaries by non-rational means.

Weizsäcker's religious views are a fascinating combination of Christian and Indian philosophy. The Indian modes of thinking — or, more precisely, of contemplation — play an important part in his world view.

Carl Friedrich von Weizäcker: *Der Garten des Menschlichen:* Beitrag zur geschichtlichen Anthropologie, published by Carl Hanser Verlag, Munich. 612 pages. DM 34.

He attaches great importance to meditation. As he puts it: "The basic experience of mysticism which meditation aims to achieve and which can be reached even at low and medium stages of meditation, is the experience of unity."

This does not amount to a rejection of science or its replacement by mysticism. Meditation is a means of "bringing science to its true level."

Hans Jürgen Baden

(Die Welt, 4 February 1978)

■ SOCIETY

Marriage school helps couples

Munich has always been better off than the rest of the country for mending marital problems. Five years ago Bavaria's capital opened this country's first school for marriage, the *Vereinigung für Partnerbeziehung* (society for partnership relations), known as VEPA.

Since then Vepa has mended hundreds of marriages which would otherwise have gone on the rocks.

Even seemingly happy marriages can easily be broken up by an illicit affair, a feeling of neglect, alcoholism or problems with children. Couples usually find themselves unable to cope with the situation and their helplessness makes matters worse.

Hubert Graf Walderdorff, founder and manager of the school of marriage, sees the greatest problem in the inability of couples to talk things out.

"Communication breakdowns are an evil extremely difficult to eliminate. Most young people enter into a marriage totally unprepared and convinced that the honeymoon will last forever," says Graf Walderdorff.

"As a result they find themselves overtaxed by the realities of married life, and the only solution they can think of is a divorce. But this need not be so."

VEPA has been most successful with its marriage seminars, individual counselling and telephone advice.

Case studies and re-enactments help those whose marriage are in danger to develop more understanding for each other and to resolve conflicts without resorting to divorce.

"Boredom, misunderstandings, disappointment and disputes are frequently due to faulty planning which can be eliminated by making use of managerial methods," says Graf Walderdorff.

"A marriage and a company are subject to the same laws of nature. Today you need a licence or a diploma for the most insignificant activity. But the most difficult task of all — marriage — is embarked upon in total ignorance and without the least training."

Graf Walderdorff would like to see marriage management become part of the curriculum of schools, equipping young people with a "marriage diploma". This could contribute greatly towards reducing the divorce rate.

VEPA has tackled a great many jobs in the past few years. Its voluntary staff members not only try to prevent divorces; they also look after children of divorced parents and their schooling problems. Family seminars provide a meeting ground for fathers, mothers, children and teachers. But Graf Walderdorff is fully aware that this is a drop in the ocean. "We want to help the individual, but at the same time we must shake the state out of its lethargy."

Gabriele Schmidt-Zesewitz

(Münchner Merkur, 9 February 1978)

63 beery years

Justine Dollman of Unterhaching near Munich might be 83 but she doesn't see that as any reason for giving up her occupation for the last 63 years: carrying up to six foaming *Masskrüge* of beer to customers. Justine often starts work as early as 9am and is still serving at midnight. (Photo: W & K)

Researchers probe intolerance

Thinking in friend-foe categories, particularly pronounced in politics, is one of the main reasons for growing intolerance in our society.

This is the view of psychoanalysts, historians and sociologists who attended the recent two-day work session of the Frankfurt Sigmund Freud Institute.

Events in the Stammheim prison, anti-Semitic excesses in the Federal Republic of Germany and protest demonstrations by anti-nuclear groups were termed indicators of growing social intolerance.

"There is a vast chasm between the ideals as laid down in the Constitution and social realities," said Klaus Horn of the Sigmund Freud Institute.

The authoritarianism of the Wilhelminian and the Hitler eras was still rampant in government offices, companies, radio stations and business hierarchies. The competitiveness of society bred intolerance.

Said Munich journalist Dagobert Lindlau: "The more intolerant a person, the more successful he is in this type of society. One way of overcoming aggression and intolerance is the ability to deal with social conflicts."

Psychoanalyst Frederick Wyatt of Frankfurt warned against dubbing only certain groups intolerant since intolerance existed everywhere in the personal sphere.

Margarete Mitscherlich-Nielsen of Frankfurt held that one reason for growing terrorism, criminality and drug addiction was the lack of sympathetic communication.

Paul Parin of Zurich censured the call for more state authority, terming it a typically German reaction to terrorism.

The director of the Sigmund Freud Institute, Clemens de Boor, said that one way to mutual understanding and a scientific analysis of the roots of intolerance would be for scientists, party representatives, the Churches and journalists to engage in frank and public discussions.

dpa

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 13 February 1978)

Red lights going out in Munich

The red lights of Munich's love emporiums are to be switched off and the ladies who ply the world's oldest profession are once more to take to the streets.

A new law passed by the District Council of Upper Bavaria has put the entire centre of Munich and adjacent areas off-limits for prostitutes.

Police have already raided several illicit brothels. For the sake of a clean city, one of the super-brothels was closed before it has started business in earnest. The owner overlooked the fact that love goes through the stomach and turned the kitchen into bedrooms. The city argued that the apartments were thus not used for living but merely for loving, as evidenced by the fact that no cooking was done.

The ladies reinstated their kitchens, and the 17 apartments are now occupied by 45 girls busying themselves not only in bed, but also at the kirchen stove. They need no longer fear the law since their apartment house is not in the off-limits zone.

In 1972, when the youth of the world rallied in Munich for the Olympic Games, the city embarked on an all-out campaign against prostitution. A huge force surrounded a bordello near the main railroad station — but to no avail because the girls outfoxed them by offering their services free.

Eventually the drive led to empty bordellos, but the ladies of easy virtue coped with this by renting apartments in various parts of Munich.

The classified columns of the daily press became filled advertisements in which callgirls and masseuses offered their services. Crime was rampant and seven prositutes were murdered in two years.

Although love for money is no less common in Munich than in other parts, it is more illegal.

Say the girls of the horizontal profession who may now sell their favours only in so-called tolerance zones: "If need be we'll march naked to City Hall."

dpa

(Nordwest Zeitung, 9 February 1978)

Study on plight of battery birds

The dispute about the plight of battery chickens is about to be resolved at the Institute for Small Animals Research in Cenne, where scientists are studying the happiness of fowls.

Says the director of the Institute, Rose-Marie Wegner: "The wellbeing of chickens can be scientifically analysed and defined."

Although the common hen has provided Europeans with their daily egg since the Bronze Age, chickens have remained mysterious beings. Nobody cared about their scratching for worms, and the only attention they received was in the pot.

Animal lovers argue that the batteries in which chickens are kept are cruel. But no-one has been able to interview a chicken on the point.

According to the Institute, battery hens behave differently from their free-ranging counterparts, but no-one knows whether this means they are unhappy.

Battery hens, for instance, appear to be looking for a nest before laying their eggs. But the few chicken psychologists among our scientists are still uncertain whether the chicken's behavioural patterns have changed because of the conditions under which they live.

A major experiment in Celle, due to begin this spring, will try to clarify this question.

The institute has improved on the British battery consisting of 80-centimetre high luxury cages complete with two-level perches, suspended nest and dustbath.

Observations seem to indicate that the feather cosmetics provided by the dustbath are essential for best laying results.

Reuter

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 10 February 1978)

Postmen to care for neglected

The German postman is to become the friend and helper of his lonely or elderly fellow citizen.

In a large-scale experiment to be carried out in Ludwigshafen and Wilhelmshaven the Postal Authority intends to use postmen as social workers.

The Ludwigshafen experiment, to begin in mid-1978, will last for a year. Postmen assigned to social work duty will be prepared in a two-day course at a geriatrics centre.

According to the initiator of the scheme, Dr Schönfelder, Postal Authority officials are now delving into the cost and organisational problems, especially those of staff. It is possible that it might be necessary to employ more people.

The Post and Telecommunications Ministry in Bonn has announced that the main function of the social worker-postman will be to bring the wishes of peoples in need to the proper authorities.

The postman will report anything that night indicate an emergency, such as unemptied letterboxes. He will have coupons for a number of requests. This will enable elderly and infirm citizens to ask for food delivery, a geriatric nurse, a counsellor on pension problems, and so on.

The postmen will not provide actual assistance such as shopping.

The bill for the experiment will be paid by the Postal Authority. But once the service has been introduced on a permanent basis it will be up to the social security system to pay.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 3 February 1978)

■ SPORT

Trouble-shooting soccer coach gives foreign aid



Rudi Gutendorf

(Photo: Wilfried Witters)

Soccer trainers tend to be rolling stones. When the team is in the doldrums the trainer is frequently axed. So a trainer with a chequered career would seem to be an unsuccessful trainer.

Not so Rudi Gutendorf. In his time Rudi has coached eight *Bundesliga* teams ranging from MSV Duisburg, Stuttgart, Schalke, Offenbach, 1860 Munich, Fortuna Cologne and Tennis Borussia Berlin to SV Hamburg.

He has also coached soccer players in nearly 20 countries all over the world, proving enormously successful everywhere. So the rule does admit of exceptions.

Rudi Gutendorf is a past master at teaching association football; he has merely decided that life as a rolling stone suits him best.

"As trainers go," he says, "I am a sprinter. My temperament runs away with me. Short-term assignments suit me down to the ground."

More than one club manager in this country will acknowledge that Rudi did his club a power of good while he stayed. He is full of bright ideas and a man to handle a crisis.

He has changed the fortunes of several Federal league clubs and after leaving SV Hamburg after not agreeing with club manager Peter Krohn (who has since also left Hamburg), would have been hired by another *Bundesliga* club had he not been abroad when the call came.

He returned to hear the news from the telephone answering service, but by then the club had signed up someone else.

But Rudi had waiting a job no less intriguing. The National Olympic Committee and the DFB, this country's Frankfurt-based football association, wanted him to promote soccer overseas.

Soccer as development aid is an assignment very much to Gutendorf's liking, and there can be few more interesting jobs than running a training course for coaches and referees from People's China.

Rudi has been coaching an 11-man squad of Chinese soccer officials since 16 January. They are to stay in this country until 2 March to learn more about soccer in the land of the reigning World Cup-holders.

The Chinese are more than happy with what Gutendorf has taught them. They have invited him to lecture at Peking and Shanghai universities and to supervise a training session for the Chinese national squad.

Only the date of his visit has yet to be settled. It will be one more stop on a soccer tour of the world which has taken him round Europe, Africa, North and South America and the Caribbean.

Rudi Gutendorf can even claim to have been his country's first sporting development aid worker. He worked as a soccer trainer in Tunisia in 1960 and 1961.

He still treasures a gold watch given as a memento by President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia.

"Where sport as we know it is unheard-of, I try to set an example and generate enthusiasm among the general public. I feel like an engineer constructing something that will soon function without his assistance.

"I really appreciate the acknowledgment that comes my way for work of this kind," he says. It is not the kind of quote usually attributed to him by the popular press.

"Working abroad is not something I regard as a job to keep body and soul together in between contracts with Federal league clubs. It is work I really devote myself to wholeheartedly."

His command of languages makes acclimatisation much easier. Rudi speaks Fluent English, French, Spanish and Italian, and can even make himself understood in Arabic.

He is also the author of a multilingual soccer manual. Gutendorf holds the world copyright for a training manual shortly to be published in four languages.

He has worked abroad at regular intervals for 18 years, so homesickness is not a problem. He feels homesick when he thinks about the countries he has worked in — such as Peru, Chile, Bolivia, Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada.

Will Peking be his next port of call? Rudi does not need to rely on soccer for a living, but he will undoubtedly first consider a lucrative contract offered by a rich oil state.

But he would not say no to another spell with a German club either.

Harald Pieper

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 11 February 1978)

(Photo: Werek)

Hans Stuck's death ends an era for motor racing

Veteran racing driver Hans Stuck died aged 77 at Garmisch on 8 February. He went into hospital before Christmas for treatment of a heart complaint and seemed to have recovered.

His 27-year-old son Hans-Joachim, also a grand prix driver, flew home to Bavaria from London as soon as he learnt of his father's relapse.

Hans Stuck Sr was born on 27 December 1900 in Warsaw. He competed in rallies regularly until the age of 60 and continued to win championships.

He embarked on his racing career in 1922, winning the German grand prix for Auto-Union in 1934, but could not even hazard a guess as to the number of trophies and awards he amassed over the years.

Hans Stuck's death marks the end of a motor-racing era in Germany.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 10 February 1978)

Strasbourg proves ice-skating rules due for a change

Judges at ice-skating championships invariably seem to favour reigning champions with high marks, and who is to say that neatly-executed figures will not tilt the balance in a skater's favour when it comes to freestyle?

At this year's European championships in Strasbourg the best freestyle competitors, Britain's Robin Cousins and Switzerland's Denise Bielmann, both failed to make the grade.

He came third, she fourth, and the champions were last year's winners Jan Hoffmann and Anett Pötzsch, both GDR, even though the newcomers won hands down in crowd appeal.

Denise Bielmann was the first woman ince skater in the world to pull off a triple lutz at an international championship. Robin Cousins easily matched Jan Hoffmann in sporting prowess and was more than a match for the champion in his dance routine.

Both were awarded the highest marks for their freestyle performances but proved too far behind in the figure-skating to narrow the lead of the GDR couple.

Marks awarded in the freestyle are supposed to count for 60 per cent of the total. But when the pressure is on the figure-skating routine is still what matters most.

At the Munich world championships in 1974 Toller Cranston of Canada skated a breathtaking freestyle routine that left the jury uncertain where they stood.



Dagmar Lurz

(Photo: Sven Simon)

Britain's John Curry and Robin Cousins have since shown a mixture of sport and dance which goes well beyond what Toller Cranston had to offer four years ago. It is also far ahead of what Jan Hoffmann has to give.

The same is true of the women. Anett Pötzsch of Potsdam and Dagmar Lurz of Dortmund, gold and silver respectively, were both outskated handsomely by Swiss Denise Bielmann in the freestyle.

"If you are under the illusion that the freestyle counts for 60 per cent, then think again," Toller Cranston is on record as saying.

"Should you happen to be in tenth place or so after the figure-skating you are trailing way, way behind with a mountain in front of you that others have already scaled".

Ice skating is probably the sporting discipline closest to show business, yet figure-skating still seems to count for most.

If not Robin Cousins and Denise Bielmann would be the new European champions, not Jann Hoffmann and Anett Pötzsch, and they would be popular champions.

Changes must come. The schedule was last revised in 1973, when a short freestyle routine was introduced with the purpose of superseding the predominance of the figures.

But the present weighting is already dated. "Pure figure-skating you can forget," Toller Cranston claimed four years ago. Yet for some reason or other three figures are still required.

Gerhard Seehase

(Die Zeit, 10 February 1978)



Top tobogganer

Elisabeth ('Betty') Demleitner, 25, from Schlehdorf, near Munich, has won this year's European toboggan championships at Hammarstrand, Sweden. The Bavarian girl, who won world championship gold at Olang in 1971, finished well ahead of Anna Mevskaya and Vera Zozulla of the Soviet Union. (Photo: Werek)